
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

SB 58 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Connick

Present law (R.S. 14:81) provides for the crime of indecent behavior with juveniles and provides for penalties.

Proposed law retains present law generally.

Present law (R.S. 14:81(A)) provides for circumstances that constitute indecent behavior with juveniles.

Proposed law retains present law and adds, as a circumstance, the grooming of a child under the age of 17 where the offender is at least four years older than the child. Further provides that completion or attempt to complete such act is not necessary to constitute grooming and lack of knowledge of the child's age shall not be a defense.

Proposed law defines the term "grooming".

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 14:81(A)(1) and (C); Adds R.S. 14:81(A)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Lower the age requirement for victims from under 17 years of age to under 13 years of age.
2. Remove the two year difference in age requirement between the offender and the victim.
3. Provide that the finder of fact will consider all relevant circumstances to determine if the offender's intent to violate proposed law was proven beyond a reasonable doubt.
4. Change proposed law penalties from imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than five years to imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for not more than 15 years.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove child grooming from the definition of "sex offense" and add it to the list of "sexual offenses against a victim who is a minor".

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the reengrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.

2. Delete proposed law crime of child grooming and designation of this offense as a "sexual offense against a victim who is a minor".
3. Amend the present law (R.S. 14:81) offense of indecent behavior with juveniles to include the grooming of a child under the age of 17 as a circumstance for which an individual can be prosecuted under present law.
4. Define the term "grooming".