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## DIGEST

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HB 98 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Penalizes the disclosure of confidential information relating to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Present law (R.S. 22:1078) provides for protections required for victims of the crime of domestic violence. Prohibits the unlawful transfer of victims' health insurance and medically-related information.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year, a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both for any person who intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information related to the abuse status of an applicant or insured for any purpose not provided in present law.

Proposed law provides that community-based shelters that serve victims of abuse are not liable for any unlawful release, disclosure, transfer, or dissemination of information that is made by an individual in violation of proposed law.

Present law (R.S. 40:2024.5) provides for the confidentiality and prohibited disclosure of records in the possession of the La. Domestic Abuse Battery Fatality Review Panel.

Proposed law generally retains present law.

Present law provides that a member of the review panel, or any local or regional panel or agent of a local or regional panel, may not disclose any information that is confidential under present law.

Proposed law amends present law to make this prohibition restrictive, rather than permissive, and provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year, a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both for any person who violates the provisions of present law. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 46:1844) provides for basic rights for victims and witnesses and provides for confidentiality of crime victims who are minors, victims of sex offenses, and victims of human trafficking-related offenses.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year, a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both for any person who intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information

contained in present law.

Present law (R.S. 46:1862) provides for the confidentiality and prohibited disclosure of records in the possession of multi-disciplinary team conferences and family justice centers.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both, for any person who intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information contained in present law.

Present law (R.S. 46:2124.1) provides for the confidentiality and prohibited disclosure of records in the possession of a community shelter.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a penalty consisting of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than one year or a fine of not more than \$2,500, or both, for any person who intentionally releases, discloses, transfers, or disseminates for publication any information contained in present law.

Proposed law provides that a community shelter is not liable for any unlawful release, disclosure, transfer, or dissemination of information that is made by an individual in violation of proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 40:2024.5(F); Adds R.S. 22:1078(F) and (G), R.S. 40:2024.5(H), and R.S. 46:1844(W)(6), 1862(E), and 2124.1(E) and (F))