

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 51

BY REPRESENTATIVE VILLIO

BAIL: (Constitutional Amendment) Restricts post-conviction bail for certain offenders

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION

2 Proposing to add Article I, Section 18(C) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the  
3 right to bail; to prohibit bail for offenders who have been convicted of certain  
4 offenses; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members  
7 elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of  
8 Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to add  
9 Article I, Section 18(C) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

10 §18. Right to Bail

11 Section 18.

12 \* \* \*

13 (C) However, after conviction, a person shall not be bailable if the offense  
14 is an aggravated offense as defined by R.S. 15:541 that is committed against a victim  
15 who is a minor.

16 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
17 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 3,  
18 2026.

19 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
20 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted

1 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
2 follows:

3 Do you support an amendment to prohibit a defendant from being released  
4 on any post-conviction bail if the defendant is convicted of an aggravated  
5 offense against a minor child? (Adds Article I, Section 18(C))

### 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)]

HB 51 Re-Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Villio

**Abstract:** Prohibits post-conviction bail for a defendant who is convicted of an aggravated offense against a victim who is a minor.

Present constitution provides for the right to bail.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains present constitution.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that a person convicted of an aggravated offense, as defined by present law (R.S. 15:541), against a minor is not eligible for any post-conviction bail.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 3, 2026.

(Adds Const. Art. I, §18(C))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Civil Law and Procedure to the engrossed bill:

1. Revise the ballot language.

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the reengrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.