

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 98

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides a penalty for the unlawful disclosure of confidential information relating to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person as a required element in order for the offender to be convicted for unlawful disclosure of certain confidential information.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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

Proposed law retains present law and provides a penalty 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 related to the abuse status of an applicant or insured with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person for a 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 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 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, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, violates the provisions of present law. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 46:1844) provides basic rights for victims and witnesses and requires certain confidentiality for 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 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, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, 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 multidisciplinary team conferences and family justice centers.

Proposed law retains present law and provides for a penalty 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, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, 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 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, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass any person, 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 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))