

ACT No. 717

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1224

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCKIN, BERAULT, CARVER, AND MANDIE LANDRY

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 610(A)(3) and to enact Children's Code
3 Article 603.2 and 606(A)(6), relative to children in need of care; to provide for
4 definitions; to provide for reporting abuse of children; to provide for pregnant
5 children under fourteen years of age; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Children's Code Article 610(A)(3) is hereby amended and reenacted and
8 Children's Code Article 603.2 and 606(A)(6) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 Art. 603.2. Pregnancy of a child; service eligibility

10 A. Upon receipt of a report that a child fourteen years of age or younger is
11 pregnant, the department shall initiate a safety assessment in accordance with its
12 child protection procedures.

13 B. A child who is seventeen years of age or younger who is pregnant shall
14 be eligible for services provided by the department, including but not limited to
15 medical coordination, counseling, case management, and protective supervision as
16 warranted.

17 C. Nothing in this Article shall require the filing of a petition pursuant to
18 Article 631 unless independent grounds exist pursuant to Article 606.

19 * * *

1 Art. 606. Grounds; child in need of care

2 A. Allegations that a child is in need of care shall assert one or more of the
3 following grounds:

4 * * *

5 (6) The child is twelve years of age or younger and is pregnant.

6 * * *

7 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States
8 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

9 A. A reporter shall immediately report suspected child abuse or neglect or
10 that child abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death in the
11 following ways:

12 * * *

13 (3) Dual reporting to both the department and the local or state law
14 enforcement agency is permitted. However, the agency who receives a report
15 pursuant to Subparagraph (1) or (2) of this Paragraph shall be the agency responsible
16 for accepting and acting on the report and shall ensure referral to other agencies as
17 necessary. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Paragraph, the pregnancy of
18 a child fourteen years of age or younger shall be reported to the Department of
19 Children and Family Services.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____