

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 469

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

HEALTH: Establishes 233 as a statewide sexual abuse helpline

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(introductory paragraph) and to enact R.S.
3 40:1216.1(E)(2)(f) and (3)(k) and (H)(6) and 1216.2, relative to the creation of a
4 sexual abuse helpline; to provide for a statewide three-digit emergency telephone
5 helpline system; to provide for sexual abuse or sexually oriented offense reporting
6 and tracking; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(introductory paragraph) is amended and reenacted and
9 R.S. 40:1216.1(E)(2)(f) and (3)(k) and (H)(6) and 1216.2 are hereby enacted to read as
10 follows:

11 §1216.1. Procedures for victims of a sexually oriented criminal offense; immunity;
12 regional plans; maximum allowable costs; definitions; documents requested
13 by victim

14 * * *

15 E.

16 * * *

17 (2) When developing the annual response plan, each district shall incorporate
18 a sexual assault response team protocol to the extent possible; however, at a
19 minimum, each district shall develop the annual plan to do all of the following:

20 * * *

1 Children and Family Services to respond to calls received by the sexual abuse
2 helpline.

3 C. The Department of Children and Family Services shall develop and
4 designate 233 as the three-digit telephone code exclusively for reporting sexual
5 abuse in this state.

6 D. The Department of Children and Family Services shall ensure the efficacy
7 and implementation of the sexual abuse helpline, which includes but is not limited
8 to all of the following:

9 (1) Maintaining a log of reported sexual abuse claims made by persons who
10 call the sexual abuse helpline.

11 (2)(a) Employing mental health and counseling professionals who can
12 respond to calls and provide contact information and referrals for sexual abuse
13 treatment.

14 (b) Staffing of employees for the helpline and compensation for the
15 employees shall be determined by the Department of Children and Family Services.

16 (3) Marketing and advertising the sexual abuse helpline, which includes but
17 is not limited to all of the following mediums:

18 (a) Digital marketing.

19 (b) Print media.

20 (c) Social media marketing.

21 (4) Reporting claims of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement
22 personnel.

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 469 Original

2024 Regular Session

Moore

Abstract: Establishes 233 as a statewide sexual abuse helpline.

Present law provides procedures for victims of sexual abuse or a sexually oriented criminal offense. Proposed law adds boosting awareness and proper utilization of the sexual abuse helpline established in proposed law to the existing requirements in present law.

Proposed law provides definitions for "233", "sexual abuse helpline", and "sexual abuse helpline staff".

Proposed law declares that promoting accessibility to healthcare services for sexual abuse victims is vital to the protection of public health and the improvement of sexual abuse victims within the state.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop and designate 233 as the 3-digit telephone code exclusively for reporting sexual abuse in the state.

Proposed law further requires DCFS to be responsible for the efficacy and implementation of the sexual abuse helpline, which includes but is not limited to the following:

- (1) Maintaining a log of reported sexual abuse claims made by persons who call the sexual abuse helpline.
- (2) Employing counseling professionals who can respond to calls and provide contact information and referrals for sexual abuse treatment.
- (3) Marketing and advertising of the sexual abuse helpline.
- (4) Reporting claims of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement personnel.

(Amends R.S. 40:1216.1(H)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 40:1216.1(E)(2)(f) and (3)(k) and (H)(6) and 1216.2)