

ACT No. 554

HOUSE BILL NO. 569

BY REPRESENTATIVES STOKES, ABRAMSON, HODGES, HOFFMANN, AND
KLECKLEY AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME,
BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY,
GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS,
MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH,
TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, AND WARD

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:587.4(A) and (C) and to enact R.S. 13:587.4(D), relative to
3 district courts; to authorize the designation of human trafficking courts; to provide
4 relative to training for the presiding judge; to provide for the transfer of certain
5 cases; to authorize certain services for human trafficking victims if available; to
6 provide for the disposition of human trafficking cases; and to provide for related
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 13:587.4(A) and (C) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 13:587.4(D) is enacted to read as follows:

11 §587.4. District courts; specialized divisions or sections; subject matter

12 A. Respecting seniority and the requirement that all cases be assigned
13 randomly within multi-judge divisions or sections, the judges of any judicial district
14 court, by rule adopted by a majority vote of the judges sitting en banc, may designate
15 a certain division or section of the court as a specialized division or section having
16 criminal, civil, drug court, driving while intoxicated court, human trafficking court,
17 mental health court, misdemeanor, traffic, juvenile, violent crimes or homicides, or
18 other specialized subject matter jurisdiction.

19 * * *

1 C.(1) If a special division or section of court is designated as a human
2 trafficking section, the presiding judge may be trained in issues of human trafficking
3 and the support services available to victims.

4 (2) All cases where a person is charged or indicted pursuant to R.S. 14:46.2,
5 46.3, 81.1, 81.2, 81.3, 82, 82.1, 83, 83.1, 83.2, 83.3, 83.4, 84, 85, 86, 89, 89.1, 89.2,
6 104, 105, 281, or 282 shall be transferred to the human trafficking section of the
7 court.

8 (3) If it is determined that a case involves a victim in need of services upon
9 evaluation by the judge, and after a contradictory hearing, the following may apply:

10 (a) The victim may be mandated to attend the appropriate support services
11 for victims of human trafficking if available.

12 (b) The victim shall, with consent of the district attorney, have the
13 opportunity to be considered for a non-criminal disposition or dismissal of their
14 cases upon satisfactory compliance with mandated support services.

15 D. No rule adopted by the court may designate any division or section,
16 without its consent, as a specialized division or section for a longer period than three
17 years.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____