HLS 17RS-599 **ENGROSSED** 

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Directs the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations for the implementation of a tracking system relative to the status of sexual assault collection kits

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the Louisiana attorney general to study
3	and make recommendations on the implementation of and protocols for the effective
4	use of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system in Louisiana, and to report their
5	findings to the legislature no later than January 1, 2018.
6	WHEREAS, national studies indicate that approximately one in five women are
7	victims of rape in their lifetime and approximately one in twenty women suffer other sexual
8	assaults; and
9	WHEREAS, victims often turn to hospitals and local law enforcement agencies for
10	help, and because of the sense of urgency in collecting evidence of a sexual assault from a
11	victim's body, the victim must undergo examinations and questioning immediately after the
12	commission of the assault by healthcare professionals and law enforcement officials who are
13	attempting to collect evidence of the crime; and
14	WHEREAS, sexual assault collection kits are designed to assist in the preservation
15	of human biological specimen or specimens collected during a forensic medical examination
16	from the victim of a sexual assault; and
17	WHEREAS, in 2016, the state of Washington enacted legislation establishing a
18	statewide sexual assault collection kit tracking system; and
19	WHEREAS, Washington's system tracks the location and status of sexual assault kits
20	throughout the criminal justice process, allows medical facilities performing sexual assault

1 forensic examinations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and other entities in custody 2 of the kits to update and track the status and location of the kits, allows victims of sexual 3 assault to anonymously track or receive updates regarding the status of their kits, and uses 4 electronic technology allowing continuous access; and 5 WHEREAS, it is important that sexual assault victims have access to information 6 about the status of their sexual assault collection kits; and 7 WHEREAS, a sexual assault collection kit tracking system would provide the state 8 with comprehensive information about the amount of kits submitted, the testing status of the 9 kits, and testing time frames; and 10 WHEREAS, it is crucial that as the tracking system develops, victim privacy is 11 strictly upheld to protect the victim's identity and safety. 12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 13 direct the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the Louisiana attorney general to study and 14 make recommendations on the implementation of and protocols for the effective use of a 15 sexual assault collection kit tracking system, and to report their findings to the legislature 16 no later than January 1, 2018. 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the 18 Louisiana attorney general are directed to study and report the costs of implementation and 19 use of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system. 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the 21 Louisiana attorney general are directed to study and report the benefits of using a sexual 22 assault collection kit tracking system and to review programs and protocols from other 23 jurisdictions throughout the United States, to identify best practices from those jurisdictions 24 that have successfully implemented and used a sexual assault collection kit tracking system. 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in studying and developing the 26 recommendations for the implementation of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system 27 in Louisiana, the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the Louisiana attorney general are 28 directed to solicit and obtain input from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and 29 Administration of Criminal Justice, the Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, 30 Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, and other stakeholders, including but not limited HLS 17RS-599
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1 to healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors, as are necessary for

- 2 the implementation of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system.
- 3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted
- 4 to the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab and the Louisiana attorney general.

## **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)]

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Moreno

Directs the La. State Police Crime Lab and the La. attorney general to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation of and protocols for the effective use of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system in La., and to report their findings to the legislature no later than Jan. 1, 2018.

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice</u> to the <u>original</u> bill:

- 1. Require the attorney general to study and make recommendations, in conjunction with the state police crime lab, on the implementation of a sexual assault collection kit tracking system.
- 2. Direct the state police crime lab and the attorney general to solicit and obtain input from the La. Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, the La. Foundation Against Sexual Assault, Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, and other stakeholders.
- 3. Make technical corrections.