

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 173

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAZEL

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CHILDREN: Amends Louisiana's safe haven law to provide that a child 60 days old or younger may be relinquished to a designated emergency care facility

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Article 1150(3), relative to safe haven
3 relinquishment of infants; to provide with respect to the definition of an infant; and
4 to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. Children's Code Article 1150(3) is hereby amended and reenacted to read
7 as follows:

8 Art. 1150. Definitions

9 As used in this Chapter:

10 * * *

11 (3) "Infant" means a child not previously subjected to abuse or neglect, who
12 is not more than ~~thirty days~~ sixty days old as determined within a reasonable degree
13 of medical certainty by an examining physician.

14 * * *

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)]

Hazel

HB No. 173

Abstract: Extends the definition of an infant for purposes of safe haven relinquishment to include children up to 60 days old.

Present law provides a mechanism whereby any parent may relinquish the care of an infant to the state in safety, anonymity, and without fear of prosecution.

Present law defines an infant as a child not previously subjected to abuse or neglect, who is not more than 30 days old.

Proposed law changes the age requirement in the definition of an infant from "not more than thirty days old" to "not more than 60 days old" and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends Ch. C. Art. 1150(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill.

1. Changed the maximum age of an infant that may be relinquished under the safe haven provisions from 12 months to 60 days.