

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 262

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Amends the threshold age of the victim for certain elements and penalty provisions of the crimes of human trafficking and trafficking of children for sexual purposes

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:46.2(B)(3) and 46.3(A)(1) and (3) and (C)(1), (D)(1)(c) and
3 (2), relative to trafficking; to amend the age of the victim for certain enhanced
4 penalty provisions regarding the offenses of human trafficking and trafficking of
5 children for sexual purposes; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 14:46.2(B)(3) and 46.3(A)(1) and (3) and (C)(1), (D)(1)(c) and (2)
8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §46.2. Human trafficking

10 * * *

11 B.

12 * * *

13 (3) Whoever commits the crime of human trafficking when the trafficking
14 involves a person under the age of ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one years shall be fined not more
15 than twenty-five thousand dollars and shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less
16 than five nor more than twenty-five years, five years of which shall be without the
17 benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

18 * * *

1 §46.3. Trafficking of children for sexual purposes

2 A. It shall be unlawful:

3 (1) For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, sell,
4 purchase, receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of a person under the
5 age of ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one years for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual
6 activity.

7 * * *

8 (3) For any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody of a person
9 under the age of ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one years to knowingly permit or consent to such
10 minor entering into any activity prohibited by the provisions of this Section.

11 * * *

12 C.(1) Consent of the ~~minor~~ person under twenty-one years of age shall not
13 be a defense to a prosecution pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

14 * * *

15 D.(1)

16 * * *

17 (c) Any person who violates the provisions of Paragraph (A)(1), (2), (4), (5),
18 or (6) of this Section, who was previously convicted of a sex offense as defined in
19 R.S. 15:541 when the victim of the sex offense was under the age of ~~eighteen~~
20 twenty-one years, shall be fined not more than one hundred thousand dollars and
21 shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than fifty years or for life. At least fifty
22 years of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation,
23 or suspension of sentence.

24 (2) Whoever violates the provisions of Paragraph (A)(3) of this Section shall
25 be required to serve at least five years of the sentence provided for in Subparagraph
26 (D)(1)(a) of this Section without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of
27 sentence. Whoever violates the provisions of Paragraph (A)(3) when the victim is
28 under the age of ~~fourteen~~ eighteen years shall be required to serve at least ten years

1 of the sentence provided for in Subparagraph (D)(1)(b) of this Section without
2 benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

3 * * *

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 262 Original

2016 Regular Session

Leger

Abstract: Raises the age of the victim for enhanced penalty purposes for the crimes of human trafficking and trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Present law provides for the crimes of human trafficking and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

Present law provides enhanced penalties for the crime of human trafficking when the trafficking involves a person under the age of 18 years, including a fine of not more than \$25,000 and imprisonment at hard labor for not less than five nor more than 25 years, five years of which shall be without the benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law increases this age from under 18 years to under 21 years and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that it shall be unlawful:

- (1) For any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, sell, purchase, receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of a person under the age of 18 years for the purpose of engaging in commercial sexual activity.
- (2) For any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody of a person under the age of 18 years to knowingly permit or consent to such minor entering into any activity prohibited by present law.

Proposed law raises the threshold age from under 18 years to under 21 years and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that anyone who has been previously convicted of a sex offense and is convicted of trafficking of children for sexual purposes when the victim of the sex offense was under the age of 18 years, shall be fined not more than \$100,000 and shall be imprisoned at hard labor for not less than 50 years or for life. At least 50 years of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of parole, probation, or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law raises the threshold age from under 18 years to under 21 years and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that a parent or guardian or person with legal custody who allows a child under their care to participate in trafficking of children for sexual purposes when the victim is under the age of 14 shall be required to serve at least 10 years of their sentence without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law raises the threshold age from under 14 years to under 18 years and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 14:46.2(B)(3) and 46.3(A)(1) and (3) and (C)(1), (D)(1)(c) and (2))