

SENATE BILL NO. 376

BY SENATORS MORRELL, CROWE AND DORSEY AND REPRESENTATIVES
ABRAMSON, BALDONE, HENRY BURNS, GISCLAIR, HINES,
GIROD JACKSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, LAMBERT, LEGER,
LORUSSO, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH,
WHITE AND WILLIAMS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(b) and to enact R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(c), relative
3 to criminal procedure; to provide for confidentiality of minors who are crime
4 victims; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 46:1844(W)(1)(b) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
7 46:1844(W)(1)(c) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1844. Basic rights for victim and witness

9 * * *

10 W. Confidentiality of crime victims who are minors and victims of sex
11 offenses.

12 (1)(a)

13 * * *

14 **(b) In order to protect the identity and provide for the safety and welfare**
15 **of crime victims who are minors under the age of eighteen years and of victims**
16 **of sex offenses, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all**
17 **attorneys shall not publicly disclose, except during trial, the name, address, or**
18 **identity of crime victims who at the time of the commission of the offense are**
19 **minors under eighteen years of age or of victims of sex offenses, regardless of**
20 **the date of commission of the offense. An attorney may lawfully utilize initials,**
21 **abbreviations, or other forms of indefinite descriptions on documents used in**
22 **the performance of their duties to prevent the public disclosure of the name,**

1 address, or identity of such crime victims. If the name, address, or identity of
 2 such a crime victim must be disclosed in a motion or pleading, that motion or
 3 pleading shall be filed with the court under seal. Failure to comply with this
 4 Subsection shall be punished as contempt of court.

5 ~~(b)~~ (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of ~~Subparagraph~~ Subparagraphs ~~(a)~~
 6 and (b) of this Paragraph, all information regarding juvenile crime victims that is
 7 required by a child abduction alert system which assists law enforcement in the
 8 successful resolution of child abduction cases, such as the AMBER Alert network,
 9 shall be made available to such alert system as quickly as possible.

10 * * *

 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____