



The Buzz

VICTIM-WITNESS
ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S ALL THE BUZZ?

From The LDAA Victim Services Liaison

Penny Davis

LEGISLATIVE
Update



June 2022

Victims' / Violent Crimes – 2022 Legislative Update

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session began on March 14th and ended on June 6th. There were 2300 bills and resolutions filed during the session. A list of the victim related bills and a brief summary of each bill that passed is included below.

Bills Related to Victims / Violent Crimes:

HB 265 by Representative Villio (ACT 140) – Allows for notification of a victim or designated family member of a parole hearing by electronic means if they opt-in to it. It also removes the requirement that the person be at the DA's office to participate via telephone for a parole hearing. Effective – August 1, 2022.

HB 313 by Representative Pressly (ACT 207) – Amends the victim's rights statute to remove the requirement that the person be registered to exercise the rights. It also allows a victim of a violent crime to get a copy of the initial report free of charge and victims of a sexual assault have the right to obtain a copy of the forensic medical examination report free of charge. Effective - Dependent on SB 147.

HB 409 by Representative Marino (ACT 621) – Provides that the requirement to issue a summons for a misdemeanor instead of arrest does not apply if the offense is a crime against a family member, household member, or dating partner. Effective – August 1, 2022.

HB 431 by Representative Jordan (ACT 625) – Prohibits the DNA of a victim of sexual assault gathered from the sexual assault collection kit from being compared with DNA records for the purpose of investigating the victim for committing any criminal offense. Effective - August 1, 2022.

HB 492 by Representative Fontenot – Clarifies that a peace officer may arrest a person instead of issuing a summons if the person committed both a felony and a misdemeanor or the person has a warrant for a felony offense.

HB 508 by Representative G. Miller (ACT 568) – Provides for electronic notification of a victim or designated family member of the release of an inmate who was convicted of a crime of violence or a sex offense at least

60 days prior to the release. The electronic notification is only available if the victim opts-in. Effective August 1, 2022.

HB 615 by Representative Freeman (ACT 630) – Makes several changes to the public records law as it relates to the disclosure of information to the victim or designated family member. This includes the name of every witness or suspect in the initial report unless disclosure would be prohibited under state or federal law. Effective – August 1, 2022.

HB 648 by Representative Hilferty (ACT 487) – Makes changes to the Crime Victims Reparation Fund regulations and increases the maximum total award to \$15,000 and the emergency award to \$1000. Effective - August 1, 2022.

SB 64 by Senator Connick (ACT 173) – Makes significant changes to the laws relative to sex offenses. It adds foreign object penetration to the definition of rape, amends the responsive verdicts for various offenses, adds offenses to the list of crimes of violence, and other changes. (LDAA Member Proposal) Effective – August 1, 2022.

SB 66 by Senator Connick (ACT 75) – Provides for an enhanced penalty for violation of a protective order when the violation was committed when the offender was in possession of a firearm. (LDAA Member Proposal) Effective – August 1, 2022

SB 147 by Senator Mizell (ACT 540) – Allows a competent adult victim of a sexually oriented criminal offense to obtain a copy of all written documentation from the forensic medical exam from the health care provider at no cost. Effective - August 1, 2022.

SB 148 by Senator Mizell (ACT 130) – Allows a victim of human trafficking to request and receive a free and expedited expungement of crimes which were committed in substantial part as a result of the person being a victim of human trafficking. The person has to obtain a certification from the prosecuting authority that the crime was committed in substantial part as a result of the person being a victim of human trafficking. The certification from one prosecuting authority is prima facie evidence that similar crimes in other jurisdictions committed during the same time period were also committed in substantial part as a result of the person being a victim of human trafficking. Effective – May 26, 2022.

For more information, please contact LDAA at 225.343.0171 or PENNY@LDAA.ORG.

Interested In Serving On The VAC Committee?



The LDAA Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC) Committee meets regularly to discuss and address concerns in the areas of victims of crime statewide, and to discuss victim services resource and training needs. If you are interested in serving on the LDAA VAC Committee, please email PENNY@LDAA.ORG. It would be great to have you on board!

The 2022-2023 LDAA VAC committee members: Leone Fitzgerald (1st J.D.), Stephanie Mosley (1st J.D.), Catalene Theriot (16th J.D.), Kristen Raby (19th J.D.), Tameka White, (21st J.D.), Karen Arias (22nd J.D.), Allyson Bianchini (24th J.D.), Nancy Michel (24th J.D.), Rae Riley (25th J.D.), Wilba Spencer (32nd J.D.), Penny Davis (LDAA).

Thank You for All You Do! We Appreciate You!

Links and Resources for Victims and Victim Assistance Coordinators

[Basic Rights for Crime Victims and Witnesses](#)

[Victims Rights Constitutional Article 1 Section 25](#)

[Children's Advocacy Centers of Louisiana](#)

[Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center](#)

[Order more LA Victim Notice and Registration Forms](#)

[LDAA's VAC Handbook \(members-only password required\)](#)

[For more information on Victim Services, click here.](#)

We would love to hear from you and what's going on in your area!

Please feel free to share articles and other submissions via email to PENNY@LDAA.ORG

The LDAA Victim-Witness Newsletter "The Buzz" is published to increase the exchange of information between the LDAA and the field, where the daily work of rebuilding shattered lives takes place. We ask that you help us by providing feedback on content and suggesting subjects for inclusion. Please send input to PENNY@LDAA.ORG.

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