

HB 860 -- Victims of Sexual Crimes

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill changes the laws regarding victims of sexual crimes, rape and abuse crisis centers, and victims' identifying information. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the State Highway Patrol to develop evidentiary collection kits for the forensic examination of victims of sexual assault and distribute the kits to medical providers who conduct the exams;
- (2) Allows only licensed physicians and nurses to conduct sexual assault forensic exams;
- (3) Extends from 48 hours to 72 hours the time within which medical providers must file their report of a forensic exam;
- (4) Prohibits medical providers from charging the victim for the exam;
- (5) Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a treatment checklist for sexual assault victims;
- (6) Requires rape and abuse crisis centers to maintain the confidentiality of individuals who they serve in order to receive state funds;
- (7) Specifies that victims of sexual assault will not be required to take polygraph tests or psychological stress evaluator exams;
- (8) Requires, after August 28, 2007, information in court records that could be used to identify any victim of sexual assault be closed. Identifying information includes the name, address, telephone number, Social Security number, physical characteristics, or any other information that the court believes could be used to locate a victim; and
- (9) Allows a partition to be used in probation or parole hearings to shield the victim from the view of the probationer or parolee.