

HB 1693 -- Victims of Sexual Offenses

Sponsor: Riback Wilson (25)

This bill makes changes to the laws regarding the collection of evidence of a sexual assault. The bill:

- (1) Requires the State Highway Patrol to develop evidentiary collection kits for the forensic examination of victims of sexual assault. The patrol must distribute the kits to medical providers who conduct the exams;
- (2) Limits who can conduct sexual assault forensic exams to licensed physicians and nurses;
- (3) Requires medical providers to file the report of the forensic exam within 48 hours and prohibits payment for the exam by the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund if the report is not filed within that time;
- (4) Prohibits medical providers from charging the victim for the exam, unless payment for the exam has been denied by the fund;
- (5) Requires hospitals to have at least one evidentiary collection kit at all times;
- (6) Requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a treatment checklist for sexual assault victims that complies with the national guidelines established by the American College of Emergency Physicians; and
- (7) Requires the department to include in its inspections whether a hospital's protocol for treating sexual assault victims meets national guidelines.