

HB 797 -- Victims of Sexual Offenses

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill changes 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 and 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) 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, unless payment for the exam has been denied by the Crime Victims' Compensation 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.