

AN ACT

relating to the emergency services and care provided to victims of sexual assault and other sex offenses and to the processes associated with preserving and analyzing the evidence of those offenses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 38, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 38.435 to read as follows:

Art. 38.435. PROHIBITED USE OF EVIDENCE FROM FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION PERFORMED ON VICTIM OF SEXUAL ASSAULT. Evidence collected during a forensic medical examination conducted under Subchapter F or G, Chapter 56A, may not be used to investigate or prosecute a misdemeanor offense, or an offense under Subchapter D, Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, alleged to have been committed by the victim from whom the evidence was collected.

SECTION 2. Article 56A.252, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to conform to Sections 3 and 8, Chapter 1037 (H.B. 616), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and is further amended to read as follows:

Art. 56A.252. PAYMENT OF COSTS OF EXAMINATION. (a) ~~[A law enforcement agency that requests a forensic medical examination under Article 56A.251 shall pay all costs of the examination.]~~ On application to the attorney general, a health care provider that provides a forensic medical examination to a sexual assault

1 survivor in accordance with this subchapter, or the [law  
2 enforcement agency is entitled to be reimbursed for the reasonable  
3 costs of the examination if the examination was performed by a  
4 physician or by a] sexual assault examiner or sexual assault nurse  
5 examiner who conducts the examination, as applicable, is entitled  
6 to be reimbursed in an amount set by attorney general rule for:

7 (1) the reasonable costs of the forensic portion of  
8 that examination; and

9 (2) the evidence collection kit [defined by Section  
10 420.003, Government Code].

11 (b) The application under Subsection (a) must be in the form  
12 and manner prescribed by the attorney general and must include:

13 (1) the documentation of the law enforcement agency's  
14 request for the forensic medical examination, as required under  
15 Article 56A.251(d); and

16 (2) a complete and itemized bill of the reasonable  
17 costs of the forensic portion of the examination.

18 (c) A health care provider or a sexual assault examiner or  
19 sexual assault nurse examiner, as applicable, who applies for  
20 reimbursement under Subsection (a) shall accept reimbursement from  
21 the attorney general as payment for the costs unless:

22 (1) the health care provider or sexual assault  
23 examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner, as applicable:

24 (A) requests, in writing, additional  
25 reimbursement from the attorney general; and

26 (B) provides documentation in support of the  
27 additional reimbursement, as reasonably requested by the attorney

1 general; and

2 (2) the attorney general determines that there is a  
3 reasonable justification for additional reimbursement.

4 (d) A health care provider is not entitled to reimbursement  
5 under this article unless the forensic medical examination is  
6 conducted on the premises of the provider by a sexual assault  
7 examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner.

8 (e) On request, the attorney general may provide training to  
9 a health care provider regarding the process for applying for  
10 reimbursement under this article.

11 SECTION 3. Article 56A.254, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 Art. 56A.254. PAYMENT OF COSTS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL CARE.  
14 The attorney general may make a payment to or on behalf of an  
15 individual for the reasonable costs incurred for medical care  
16 provided in accordance with Sections [~~Section~~] 323.004, 323.053,  
17 and 323.054, Health and Safety Code.

18 SECTION 4. Article 56A.302, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Art. 56A.302. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies to  
21 the following health care providers [~~facilities~~] that provide  
22 diagnosis or treatment services to victims of sexual assault:

23 (1) a general or special hospital licensed under  
24 Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code;

25 (2) a general or special hospital owned by this state;

26 (3) an outpatient clinic; [~~and~~]

27 (4) a private physician's office; and

1           (5) a SAFE program as defined by Section 323.051,  
2 Health and Safety Code.

3           SECTION 5. Article 56A.303, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
4 amended to conform to Section 4, Chapter 1037 (H.B. 616), Acts of  
5 the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and is further amended  
6 to read as follows:

7           Art. 56A.303. FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION. (a) In  
8 accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 420, Government Code, and  
9 except as provided by Subsection (b), a health care provider  
10 [~~facility~~] shall conduct a forensic medical examination of a victim  
11 of a a [~~an alleged~~] sexual assault if:

12                   (1) the victim arrives at the provider [~~facility~~]  
13 within 120 [~~96~~] hours after the assault occurred;

14                   (2) the victim consents to the examination; and

15                   (3) at the time of the examination the victim has not  
16 reported the assault to a law enforcement agency.

17           (b) If a health care provider [~~facility~~] does not provide  
18 diagnosis or treatment services to victims of sexual assault, the  
19 provider [~~facility~~] shall refer a victim of a a [~~an alleged~~] sexual  
20 assault who seeks a forensic medical examination under Subsection  
21 (a) to a health care provider [~~facility~~] that provides services to  
22 those victims.

23           (c) A victim of a a [~~an alleged~~] sexual assault may not be  
24 required to participate in the investigation or prosecution of an  
25 offense as a condition of receiving a forensic medical examination  
26 under this article.

27           SECTION 6. Article 56A.304, Code of Criminal Procedure, is

1 amended to conform to Sections 4 and 8, Chapter 1037 (H.B. 616),  
2 Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and is further  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Art. 56A.304. PAYMENT OF FEES RELATED TO EXAMINATION. (a)

5 On application to the [~~The department shall pay the appropriate~~  
6 ~~fees, as set by~~] attorney general [~~rule~~], a health care provider  
7 that provides [~~for the forensic portion of~~] a forensic medical  
8 examination to a sexual assault survivor in accordance with this  
9 subchapter, or the [~~conducted under Article 56A.303(a) and for the~~  
10 ~~evidence collection kit if a physician,~~] sexual assault examiner  
11 [~~7~~] or sexual assault nurse examiner who conducts that [~~the~~  
12 ~~forensic portion of the~~] examination, as applicable, within 120  
13 [~~96~~] hours after the [~~alleged~~] sexual assault occurred is entitled  
14 to be reimbursed in an amount set by attorney general rule for:

15 (1) the reasonable costs of the forensic portion of  
16 that examination; and

17 (2) the evidence collection kit.

18 (b) The application under Subsection (a) must be in the form  
19 and manner prescribed by the attorney general and must include:

20 (1) certification that the examination was conducted  
21 in accordance with the requirements of Article 56A.303(a); and

22 (2) a complete and itemized bill of the reasonable  
23 costs of the forensic portion of the examination [~~attorney general~~  
24 ~~shall reimburse the department for fees paid under Subsection (a)].~~

25 (c) A health care provider or a sexual assault examiner or  
26 sexual assault nurse examiner, as applicable, who applies for  
27 reimbursement under Subsection (a) shall accept reimbursement from

1 the attorney general as payment for the costs unless:

2 (1) the health care provider or sexual assault  
3 examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner, as applicable:

4 (A) requests, in writing, additional  
5 reimbursement from the attorney general; and

6 (B) provides documentation in support of the  
7 additional reimbursement, as reasonably requested by the attorney  
8 general; and

9 (2) the attorney general determines that there is a  
10 reasonable justification for additional reimbursement.

11 (d) A health care provider is not entitled to reimbursement  
12 under this article unless the forensic medical examination was  
13 conducted on the premises of the provider by a sexual assault  
14 examiner or sexual assault nurse examiner.

15 (e) On request, the attorney general may provide training to  
16 a health care provider regarding the process for applying for  
17 reimbursement under this article.

18 (f) A victim of a [an-alleged] sexual assault may not be  
19 required to pay for:

20 (1) the forensic portion of the forensic medical  
21 examination; or

22 (2) the evidence collection kit.

23 SECTION 7. Article 56A.305, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 Art. 56A.305. PAYMENT OF COSTS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL CARE.

26 The attorney general may make a payment to or on behalf of an  
27 individual for the reasonable costs incurred for medical care

1 provided in accordance with Sections [~~Section~~] 323.004, 323.053,  
2 and 323.054, Health and Safety Code.

3 SECTION 8. Section 420.003(1-a), Government Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 (1-a) "Active criminal case" means a case:

6 (A) in which:

7 (i) a sexual assault or other sex offense  
8 has been reported to a law enforcement agency; [~~and~~]

9 (ii) physical evidence of the offense has  
10 been submitted to the agency or an accredited crime laboratory  
11 under this chapter for analysis; and

12 (iii) the agency documents that an offense  
13 has been committed and reported; and

14 (B) for which:

15 (i) the statute of limitations has not run  
16 with respect to the prosecution of the offense; or

17 (ii) a DNA profile was obtained that is  
18 eligible under Section 420.043 for comparison with DNA profiles in  
19 the state database or CODIS DNA database.

20 SECTION 9. The heading to Chapter 323, Health and Safety  
21 Code, is amended to read as follows:

22 CHAPTER 323. EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FORENSIC EXAMINATION PROGRAMS  
23 FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

24 SECTION 10. Chapter 323, Health and Safety Code, is amended  
25 by designating Sections 323.001 through 323.008 as Subchapter A and  
26 adding a subchapter heading to read as follows:

1           SUBCHAPTER A. EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS  
2                           OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

3           SECTION 11. Section 323.001, Health and Safety Code, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5           Sec. 323.001. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter [~~chapter~~]:

6           (1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services  
7 Commission.

8           (2) "Department" means the Department of State Health  
9 Services.

10           (3) "Health care facility" means a general or special  
11 hospital licensed under Chapter 241, a general or special hospital  
12 owned by this state, or a freestanding emergency medical care  
13 facility licensed under Chapter 254.

14           (3-a) "SAFE-ready facility" means a health care  
15 facility designated as a sexual assault forensic exam-ready  
16 facility under Section 323.0015. The term includes a SAFE program  
17 designated as a SAFE-ready facility under Section 323.052.

18           (3-b) "SAFE program" has the meaning assigned by  
19 Section 323.051.

20           (4) "Sexual assault" means any act as described by  
21 Section 22.011 or 22.021, Penal Code.

22           (4-a) "Sexual assault forensic examiner" means a  
23 certified sexual assault nurse examiner or a physician with  
24 specialized training on conducting a forensic medical examination.

25           (5) "Sexual assault survivor" means an individual who  
26 is a victim of a sexual assault, regardless of whether a report is  
27 made or a conviction is obtained in the incident.

1 SECTION 12. Section 323.002(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (a) Each health care facility that has an emergency  
4 department shall comply with Sections [~~Section~~] 323.004 and  
5 323.0044. At the request of the department, a health care facility  
6 that has an emergency department shall submit to the department for  
7 approval a plan for providing the services required by Section  
8 323.004 to sexual assault survivors who arrive for treatment at the  
9 emergency department of the health care facility.

10 SECTION 13. Sections 323.004(a), (a-1), and (b), Health and  
11 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

12 (a) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (a-2), after  
13 a sexual assault survivor arrives at a health care facility  
14 following a a [~~an alleged~~] sexual assault, the facility shall  
15 provide care to the survivor in accordance with Subsection (b).

16 (a-1) A facility that is not a SAFE-ready facility shall  
17 inform the sexual assault survivor that:

18 (1) the facility is not a SAFE-ready facility and  
19 provide to the survivor the name and location of nearby [~~the~~  
20 ~~closest~~] SAFE-ready facilities [~~facility~~] and the information form  
21 required by Section 323.0051; and

22 (2) the survivor is entitled, at the survivor's  
23 option:

24 (A) to receive the care described by Subsection  
25 (b) at that facility, subject to Subsection (b-1); or

26 (B) to be stabilized and to be referred or  
27 transferred to and receive the care described by Subsection (b) at a

1 SAFE-ready facility.

2 (b) A health care facility providing care to a sexual  
3 assault survivor shall provide the survivor with:

4 (1) subject to Subsection (b-1), a forensic medical  
5 examination in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 420,  
6 Government Code, if the examination has been requested by a law  
7 enforcement agency under Subchapter F, Chapter 56A, Code of  
8 Criminal Procedure, or is conducted under Subchapter G, Chapter  
9 56A, Code of Criminal Procedure;

10 (2) a private area, if available, to wait or speak with  
11 the appropriate medical, legal, or sexual assault crisis center  
12 staff or volunteer until a physician, nurse, or physician assistant  
13 is able to treat the survivor;

14 (3) access to a sexual assault program advocate, if  
15 available, as provided by Subchapter H, Chapter 56A, Code of  
16 Criminal Procedure;

17 (4) the information form required by Section 323.005;

18 (5) a private treatment room, if available;

19 (6) if indicated by the history of contact, access to  
20 appropriate prophylaxis for exposure to sexually transmitted  
21 infections; ~~and~~

22 (7) the name and telephone number of the nearest  
23 sexual assault crisis center; and

24 (8) if the health care facility has shower facilities,  
25 access to a shower at no cost to the survivor after the examination  
26 described by Subdivision (1).

27 SECTION 14. Section 323.005(a), Health and Safety Code, as

1 amended by Chapters 408 (H.B. 8), 469 (H.B. 4173), and 1037 (H.B.  
2 616), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is  
3 reenacted and further amended to conform to Chapter 469 (H.B.  
4 4173), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, to read  
5 as follows:

6 (a) The commission [~~department~~] shall develop a standard  
7 information form for sexual assault survivors that must include:

8 (1) a detailed explanation of the forensic medical  
9 examination required to be provided by law, including a statement  
10 that photographs may be taken of the genitalia;

11 (2) information regarding treatment of sexually  
12 transmitted infections and pregnancy, including:

13 (A) generally accepted medical procedures;

14 (B) appropriate medications; and

15 (C) any contraindications of the medications  
16 prescribed for treating sexually transmitted infections and  
17 preventing pregnancy;

18 (3) information regarding drug-facilitated sexual  
19 assault, including the necessity for an immediate urine test for  
20 sexual assault survivors who may have been involuntarily drugged;

21 (4) information regarding crime victims compensation,  
22 including:

23 (A) a statement that public agencies are  
24 responsible for paying for the forensic portion of an examination  
25 conducted under Subchapter F or G, Chapter 56A [~~Article 56.06 or~~  
26 ~~56.065~~], Code of Criminal Procedure, and for the evidence  
27 collection kit used in connection with the examination and that the

1 health care facility or provider, as applicable, is responsible for  
2 seeking reimbursement for those costs; and

3 (B) information regarding the reimbursement of  
4 the survivor for the medical portion of the examination;

5 (5) an explanation that consent for the forensic  
6 medical examination may be withdrawn at any time during the  
7 examination;

8 (6) the name and telephone number of sexual assault  
9 crisis centers statewide; ~~and~~

10 (7) information regarding postexposure prophylaxis  
11 for HIV infection;

12 (8) information regarding the period for which  
13 biological evidence collected from the forensic medical  
14 examination will be retained and preserved under Article 38.43,  
15 Code of Criminal Procedure; and

16 (9) a statement that the survivor has the right to  
17 access a shower for free after the forensic medical examination, if  
18 shower facilities are available at the health care facility.

19 SECTION 15. Section 323.0051(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (a) The commission ~~[department]~~ shall develop a standard  
22 information form for sexual assault survivors who arrive at a  
23 health care facility that is not a SAFE-ready facility. The  
24 information form must include:

25 (1) information regarding the benefits of a forensic  
26 medical examination conducted by a sexual assault forensic  
27 examiner;

1           (2) the Internet website address to the commission's  
2 [~~department's~~] list of SAFE-ready facilities that includes the  
3 facilities' physical addresses as required by Section 323.008;

4           (3) the following statements:

5                   (A) "As a survivor of sexual assault, you have  
6 the right to receive a forensic medical examination at this  
7 hospital emergency room if you are requesting the examination not  
8 later than 120 hours after the assault.";

9                   (B) "A report to law enforcement is not required,  
10 but if you make a report, law enforcement must first authorize the  
11 examination."; and

12                   (C) "Call 1-800-656-HOPE to be connected to a  
13 rape crisis center for free and confidential assistance."; and

14           (4) information on the procedure for submitting a  
15 complaint against the health care facility.

16           SECTION 16. Section 323.0052(a), Health and Safety Code, is  
17 amended to conform to Chapter 469 (H.B. 4173), Acts of the 86th  
18 Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and further amended to read as  
19 follows:

20           (a) The commission [~~department~~] shall develop a standard  
21 information form that, as described by Subsection (b), is to be  
22 provided to sexual assault survivors who have not given signed,  
23 written consent to a health care facility to release the evidence as  
24 provided by Section 420.0735, Government Code. The form must  
25 include the following information:

26                   (1) the Department of Public Safety's policy regarding  
27 storage of evidence of a sexual assault or other sex offense that is

1 collected under Subchapter G, Chapter 56A [~~Article 56.065~~], Code of  
2 Criminal Procedure, including:

3 (A) a statement that the evidence will be stored  
4 until the fifth anniversary of the date on which the evidence was  
5 collected before the evidence becomes eligible for destruction; and

6 (B) the department's procedures regarding the  
7 notification of the survivor before a planned destruction of the  
8 evidence;

9 (2) a statement that the survivor may request the  
10 release of the evidence to a law enforcement agency and report a  
11 sexual assault or other sex offense to the agency at any time;

12 (3) the name, phone number, and e-mail address of the  
13 law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the offense; and

14 (4) the name and phone number of a local rape crisis  
15 center.

16 SECTION 17. Section 323.008, Health and Safety Code, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 323.008. DATA PUBLICATION. The commission  
19 [~~department~~] shall post on the commission's [~~department's~~] Internet  
20 website a list of all hospitals and other health facilities that are  
21 designated as SAFE-ready facilities under this chapter and the  
22 facilities' physical addresses. The commission [~~department~~] shall  
23 update the list quarterly [~~annually~~]. To the extent possible, the  
24 commission [~~department~~] shall collect the data required by this  
25 section as part of a survey required by the commission [~~department~~]  
26 under other law.

27 SECTION 18. Chapter 323, Health and Safety Code, is amended

1 by adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

2 SUBCHAPTER B. SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PROGRAMS

3 Sec. 323.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

4 (1) "SAFE program" means a program that meets the  
5 requirements prescribed by Section 323.052. The term does not  
6 include a program operated by a health care facility, as defined by  
7 Section 323.001.

8 (2) "Sexual assault examiner," "sexual assault nurse  
9 examiner," and "sexual assault program" have the meanings assigned  
10 by Section 420.003, Government Code.

11 (3) "Sexual assault forensic examiner" means a  
12 certified sexual assault nurse examiner or a physician licensed  
13 under Subtitle B, Title 3, Occupations Code, with specialized  
14 training on conducting a forensic medical examination.

15 Sec. 323.052. OPERATION OF SAFE PROGRAM; DESIGNATION OF  
16 SAFE PROGRAM AS SAFE-READY FACILITY. (a) A person may operate a  
17 SAFE program only if:

18 (1) the program meets the minimum standards  
19 established under Section 323.053; and

20 (2) the program provides forensic medical  
21 examinations to sexual assault survivors in accordance with Section  
22 323.054.

23 (b) The Health and Human Services Commission shall  
24 designate a SAFE program described by Subsection (a) as a  
25 SAFE-ready facility under Section 323.0015 if the program notifies  
26 the commission that the program employs or contracts with a sexual  
27 assault forensic examiner or uses a telemedicine system of sexual

1 assault forensic examiners to provide consultation during a sexual  
2 assault forensic medical examination to a nurse or physician  
3 licensed to practice in this state.

4 Sec. 323.053. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SAFE PROGRAMS. A SAFE  
5 program must:

6 (1) operate under the active oversight of a medical  
7 director who is a physician licensed by and in good standing with  
8 the Texas Medical Board;

9 (2) provide medical treatment under a physician's  
10 order, standing medical order, standing delegation order, or other  
11 order or protocol as defined by Texas Medical Board rules;

12 (3) employ or contract with a sexual assault examiner  
13 or a sexual assault nurse examiner;

14 (4) provide access to a sexual assault program  
15 advocate, as required by Subchapter H, Chapter 56A, Code of  
16 Criminal Procedure;

17 (5) ensure a sexual assault survivor has access to a  
18 private treatment room;

19 (6) if indicated by a survivor's history or on a  
20 survivor's request, provide:

21 (A) HIV testing and prophylactic medication to  
22 the survivor or a referral for the testing and medication; and

23 (B) counseling and prophylactic medications for  
24 exposure to sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy;

25 (7) provide to survivors the name and telephone number  
26 of a nearby sexual assault program that provides to survivors the  
27 minimum services described by Subchapter A, Chapter 420, Government

1 Code;

2 (8) provide to survivors the information form required  
3 by Section 323.005, 323.0051, or 323.0052, as applicable, and  
4 orally communicate the information regarding crime victims  
5 compensation under Section 323.005(a)(4);

6 (9) collaborate with any sexual assault program, as  
7 defined by Section 420.003, Government Code, that provides services  
8 to survivors in the county;

9 (10) engage in efforts to improve the quality of the  
10 program;

11 (11) maintain capacity for appropriate triage or have  
12 agreements with other health facilities to assure that a survivor  
13 receives the appropriate level of care indicated for the survivor's  
14 medical and mental health needs;

15 (12) prioritize the safety and well-being of  
16 survivors;

17 (13) provide a trauma-informed approach in the  
18 forensic medical care provided to survivors; and

19 (14) collaborate with:

20 (A) law enforcement agencies and attorneys  
21 representing the state with jurisdiction in the county;

22 (B) any available local sexual assault response  
23 team; and

24 (C) other interested persons in the community.

25 Sec. 323.054. FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION BY SAFE PROGRAM;

26 INFORMED CONSENT. (a) A SAFE program shall provide to a sexual  
27 assault survivor under the care of the program a forensic medical

1 examination in accordance with Subchapter B, Chapter 420,  
2 Government Code, if the examination has been requested by a law  
3 enforcement agency under Subchapter F, Chapter 56A, Code of  
4 Criminal Procedure, or if the examination is performed in  
5 accordance with Subchapter G, Chapter 56A, Code of Criminal  
6 Procedure.

7 (b) Only a sexual assault examiner or a sexual assault nurse  
8 examiner may perform a forensic medical examination under a SAFE  
9 program.

10 (c) A sexual assault examiner or sexual assault nurse  
11 examiner employed by or under contract with a SAFE program must  
12 obtain a sexual assault survivor's informed, written consent before  
13 performing a forensic medical examination or providing medical  
14 treatment to the survivor.

15 (d) A sexual assault survivor who receives a forensic  
16 medical examination from a sexual assault examiner or sexual  
17 assault nurse examiner employed by or under contract with a SAFE  
18 program may not be required to:

19 (1) participate in the investigation or prosecution of  
20 an offense as a prerequisite to receiving the forensic medical  
21 examination or medical treatment; or

22 (2) pay for the costs of the forensic portion of the  
23 forensic medical examination or for the evidence collection kit.

24 SECTION 19. Article 38.435, Code of Criminal Procedure, and  
25 Section 323.004(b)(8), Health and Safety Code, as added by this  
26 Act, apply to a forensic medical examination that occurs on or after  
27 the effective date of this Act. A forensic medical examination that

1 occurs before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date  
2 the examination occurred, and the former law is continued in effect  
3 for that purpose.

4 SECTION 20. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails  
5 over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021,  
6 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted  
7 codes.

8 SECTION 21. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2706 was passed by the House on April 30, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 128, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2706 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2706 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor