
DIGEST

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HB 160 Original

2018 Regular Session

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Abstract: Provides for the contents of certain death investigation documents and provides for whether each of those documents are considered to be public records.

Present law requires the coroner to provide a copy of a final report or autopsy report to the last attending physician or family physician, if requested in writing. Requires the autopsy report and related documents to be provided to family, next of kin, or law enforcement agencies at no charge when requested. Provides that additional copies shall be charged the same amount as is charged for death certificates. Classifies an autopsy report as a public record. Outlines the information each autopsy report shall include.

Proposed law provides a detailed description of the information included in coroner death investigation documents. Provides that the autopsy report is not a public record. However, it can be made available to law enforcement agencies at no charge upon request and is subject to subpoena. Additionally, a copy of the autopsy report can be provided to the next of kin and decedent's physician upon request.

Proposed law further provides that death investigation reports are not public documents, but can be made available to law enforcement at no charge. Provides that coroners' reports are public records and shall be released to the news media, the Dept. of Children and Family Services, when appropriate, or next of kin.

(Amends R.S. 13:5713(C)(1)(c), (E)(1), (I), and (J) and R.S. 44:19(A)(3); Adds R.S. 44:19(E); Repeals R.S. 13:5713(K), (L), and (M) and 5714(C))