

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 181

2023 Regular Session

DeVillier

CORONERS: Provides relative to telemedicine access for coroners.

DIGEST

Present law provides that a person who has a mental illness or a person who is suffering from a substance-related or addictive disorder may be admitted and detained at a treatment facility for observation, diagnosis, and treatment for a period not to exceed 15 days under an emergency certificate. Present law further provides for the execution of the emergency certificate after an actual examination by a physician, physician assistant, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, other nurse practitioner who acts in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement, or psychologist. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the actual examination of the person by a psychiatrist or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner may be conducted by telemedicine utilizing video conferencing technology. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that, within 72 hours of admission, the person shall be independently examined by the coroner or his deputy who shall execute an emergency certificate, which shall be a necessary precondition to the person's continued confinement. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a coroner, who is a physician, or his deputy, who is a physician, may utilize telehealth to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.

Present law provides that, subject to specific exceptions in present law, if the original examination by the psychiatrist referred to in present law is conducted by telemedicine, the 72-hour independent examination by the coroner shall be conducted in person. Proposed law retains present law but removes the specific reference to a psychiatrist and updates terminology.

(Amends R.S. 28:53(G)(2) and (J)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Restore present law relative to the actual examinations and reexaminations via telemedicine.
2. Allow psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, coroners who are licensed physicians, or deputy coroners who are licensed physicians to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.
3. Make technical corrections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill

1. Restore present law provisions regarding the authority of a coroner or his deputy to independently examine the individual 72-hours after admission.
2. Allow a coroner, who is a physician, or his deputy, who is a physician, to utilize telehealth to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.

3. Update outdated references and terminology.
4. Make technical changes.