



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 44** HLS 24RS 122  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> March 7, 2024 2:29 PM	<b>Author:</b> LANDRY, MANDIE
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Parish Coroners/LSU FACES Lab	
<b>Subject:</b> Reporting Unidentified Remains to Federal Database	<b>Analyst:</b> Garrett Ordner

CORONERS OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX Page 1 of 1  
 Requires coroners to report unidentified remains to the federal missing and unidentified persons database

Present law provides that the coroner or his designee shall make every reasonable effort to notify the next of kin for all cases within his jurisdiction. Proposed law retains present law and requires the coroner or his designee to enter all available identifying features of unidentified remains into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) if they are unable to notify the next of kin by the tenth working day after the latter of viewing the body or commencement of investigation into the cause and manner of death.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There is no cost to coroners to enter unidentified remains into the NamUs database. However, because it is responsible for entering remains into NamUs on behalf of many parishes across the state, Louisiana State University (LSU) Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Laboratory reports that it may require an additional Research Associate II position at approximately \$68,232 per year in salary and benefits within the next two or three years to handle the increased workload of entering information on unidentified remains into NamUs within the 10 working day time period required by the proposed law. It is indeterminable whether this position will ultimately be necessary, or if the task of entering information into NamUs at the FACES Lab could be handled by a part-time employee or a graduate student.

The FACES Lab reports that it currently enters unidentified remains into the NamUs database if the decedent is still unidentified after all analyses and tests are completed, and that this process takes significantly longer than 10 days. Additionally, not all sets of unidentified remains are submitted to the FACES Lab within 10 days of discovery. If the proposed law leads coroners to submit remains to the lab sooner than they otherwise would, the FACES Lab reports that it may require an additional employee to handle the workload of entering remains into the database. In addition, many smaller parishes do not currently utilize the FACES Lab because they are able to identify remains more easily. The deadline imposed by the bill may cause more parishes to begin relying on the FACES Lab for NamUs entry.


Proposed law appears to expand the definition of "unidentified" to include any remains for which the next-of-kin cannot be contacted within ten working days, which may include cases where the remains are identified but next-of-kin cannot be reached. This combined with the shorter timeframe in which to identify remains may lead to an increased workload for coroners to enter remains into the NamUs database. However, it is indeterminable whether this would require any additional positions within coroners' offices.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate      Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
 Deputy Fiscal Officer