

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 29

BY SENATORS MCMATH, ABRAHAM, BARROW, CARTER, CATHEY, HENRY,
HODGES, MIZELL, MYERS AND STINE

PUBLIC HEALTH. Requires coroners to report certain information regarding sudden child deaths. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:31.14(A) and to enact R.S. 13:5713(L), relative to autopsies

3 of children; to provide for access to immunization records; to provide for the review

4 of immunization records; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:5713(L) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §5713. Duties; autopsies and investigations

8 * * *

9 **L.(1) Any autopsy report, as provided for in R.S. 44:19, for a child under**

10 **the age of fifteen who dies unexpectedly without explanation shall include**

11 **documentation of any immunizations administered to the child within ninety**

12 **days before the child's death. The coroner or any individual contracted to**

13 **perform an autopsy on behalf of the coroner, including but not limited to a**

14 **forensic pathologist or his designee, shall be granted access to the child's**

15 **immunization records in the state immunization registry.**

16 **(2) If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death**

17 **Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death**

age of 15 who dies unexpectedly without explanation to include documentation of any immunizations administered to the child within 90 days of the child's death.

Proposed law authorizes the coroner or any individual contracted to perform an autopsy on behalf of the coroner to access immunization records through the immunization registry.

Present law requires the coroner to notify the director of the parish health unit if he finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Proposed law requires the coroner to report to the La. Dept. of Health if he finds that the cause of a child's death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome, or Sudden Death in the Young.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health to report the case to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health's Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry.

Proposed law provides that the inclusion of an immunization record in any report does not imply cause of death.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 40:31.14(A); adds R.S. 13:5713(L))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Reverts autopsy requirements for children who die unexpectedly and without cause to present law requirements.
2. Changes proposed law reporting requirement from a mandatory autopsy report requirement to inclusion in existing reports prepared by the coroner or competent physician designated by the coroner.
3. Provides that the inclusion of an immunization record in any report does not imply cause of death.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Consolidates provisions relative to the inclusion of immunization records in reports prepared by the coroner or the coroner's designee.
2. Changes the entity that is required to report to the federal registry.
3. Adds authorization for the coroner or any individual contracted to perform an autopsy on behalf of the coroner to access immunization records through the immunization registry.