
DIGEST

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HB 1253 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Butler

Abstract: Enacts the Gracey Claire Rushing Act to provide for documentation, notification, and communication in the handling and disposition of human remains and internal organs.

Proposed law enacts the Gracey Claire Rushing Act in memory of a young child whose passing highlighted the need for improved safeguards in the treatment of decedent's remains.

Present law provides that a post-mortem forensic medical examination report, known as an autopsy report, contains information including contact information of the decedent, the names of persons performing or present at the autopsy, a summary of the medical findings, and the cause and manner of death.

Present law further provides that this report is not a public record except when ordered released pursuant to a court order or when the report involves criminal activity or the death of a person in the custody of law enforcement or a corrections entity.

Present law provides for this report to be made available to law enforcement at no charge, to the next of kin, and to the decedent's physician.

Present law (R.S. 13:5713(B)(4)(b)) permits the coroner to remove and retain any specimens or organs of a deceased which in his discretion are necessary for further examination.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the autopsy report shall also document any organs of the deceased that have been retained pursuant to present law.

Effective on Jan. 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 44:19(E0(4)))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that an autopsy report shall document any organs of a decedent that have been retained by the coroner for further examination.