

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 641 by Representative Harrison

CORONERS: Relative to the office and duties of coroner

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Provides for technical amendments.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law requires that a coroner either view a body or make an investigation into the cause and manner of death in all cases involving certain types of death.

Proposed law removes the requirement for the coroner to view a body or make an investigation into a death in instances when the decedent has not been seen by an attending physician within 36 hours prior to the hour of death. Retains the present law requirement that a coroner investigate a death from natural causes occurring in a hospital when the hour of death is within 24-hours of admission but removes present law exception for instances when the decedent was seen by a physician within the last 36 hours prior to the hour of death.

Present law requires the coroner to arrange for the burial of paupers, and requires that burial expenses not exceed the actual cost of the service which shall be paid by the parish or municipality in which the death occurred.

Present law requires that the state pay for burial expenses for patients or residents of any state-operated healthcare or treatment facility and authorizes the state or any municipality or parish to establish a maximum amount which it shall pay for individual burial expenses.

Proposed law retains present law except that it removes requirements relative to the burial of paupers and authorizes the disposition of the body and related expenses of disposition. Changes all references from "burial" to "disposition".

Present law provides for the list of individuals to be included in the definition of "peace officer" for purposes of the crime of first degree murder.

Proposed law adds coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner investigator to the list of individuals included in the definition of a "peace officer".

Present law authorizes certain elected officials who are P.O.S.T.-certified to possess and conceal a handgun on their person.

Proposed law adds authorization for designated coroner investigators who are P.O.S.T.-certified.

Present law requires certain emergency personnel to make a reasonable search of a person reasonably believed to be near death for a document of anatomical gift or other information identifying the person as a donor or as a person who has refused to make such a donation.

Proposed law retains present law and extends the requirement to a coroner or his designee, and further requires the coroner or his designee to make such a search upon death of a person.

(Amends R.S. 13:5713(A) and 5715(A)(2), R.S. 14:30(B)(1) and 95(H), and R.S. 17:2355.1)