

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

**HB 539**

**2016 Regular Session**

**Hazel**

**HUMAN REMAINS:** Authorizes the use of human biological matter for purposes of training cadaver dogs

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Deletes provisions which specifically allow the retention of tissues and biological samples for tissue from an abandoned or unclaimed body for cadaver dog training, and provides that a coroner may donate tissue or biological samples to an individual who is affiliated with an established search and rescue dog organization for training in the search of human remains.
2. Adds that any request for biological samples shall be made to the coroner on the requesting organization's letterhead and signed by the director, manager, or individual overseeing rescue dog training.
3. Adds that biological samples shall not be more than 28 grams per tissue type.
4. Adds that a person shall be deemed affiliated with an established search and rescue dog organization if he presents the coroner with a signed letter from his director, manager, or other supervisor authorizing the request of biological samples.
5. Removes the proposed definition of "forensic science education" and related provisions.
6. Makes technical amendments.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law authorizes the coroner to dispose of an abandoned or unclaimed body.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the coroner to donate tissue or biological samples to an individual who is affiliated with an established search and rescue dog organization for the purpose of training a dog to search for human remains.

Proposed law adds that any request for biological samples shall not be no more that 28 grams per tissue and shall be made to the coroner on the requesting organization's letterhead and signed by the director, manager, or individual overseeing rescue dog training.

Proposed law further adds that a person shall be deemed affiliated with an established search and rescue dog organization if he presents the coroner with a signed letter from his director, manager, or other supervisor authorizing the request of biological samples.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 9:1551(F))