

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 137

BY SENATOR FOIL

CORONERS. Requires the coroner to issue a permit for cremation after completion of coroner's investigation of death when under suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime. (8/1/20)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5716, relative to coroners; to provide for cremation of bodies;  
3 to provide for notification; to provide for an investigation; to provide for a permit;  
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:5716 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §5716. Cremation of bodies

8 If the cremation of a body is requested, the funeral director shall immediately  
9 notify the coroner who has jurisdiction in the death.

10 A. If, after the necessary investigation, the coroner is satisfied that there are  
11 no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, he shall issue a permit for  
12 cremation.

13 B. If the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable  
14 probability of the commission of a crime, the coroner shall deny the permit. After  
15 completion of the coroner's investigation, he may issue a permit for cremation.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

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DIGEST

SB 137 Engrossed                      2020 Regular Session                      Foil

Present law requires that if the cremation of a body is requested, the funeral director immediately notify the coroner who has jurisdiction in the death.

Present law requires that after the necessary investigation, the coroner issue a permit for cremation if he is satisfied that there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.

Present law requires that the coroner deny the permit if the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes that in instances where the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime, the coroner to issue a permit for cremation after the coroner's investigation is complete.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Amends R.S. 13:5716)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the original bill

1. Changes from mandatory to permissive that the coroner issue a permit for cremation after the investigation is complete.