

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SB 187

2023 Regular Session

Kleinpeter

June 8, 2023

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 187 by Senator Kleinpeter, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

- 1. That all House Floor Amendments by Representative Jordan (#4098) and adopted by the House of Representatives on June 5, 2023, be rejected.
- 2. That the following amendment to the engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 15, after "**coroner's**" delete the remainder of the line, and insert "**post mortem examination and evidence collection is completed.** After completion"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, at the beginning of line 16, delete "investigation"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 17, after "**coroner's**" delete "**investigation**" and insert "**post mortem examination and evidence collection**"

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

Senator Caleb Kleinpeter

Representative Edmond Jordan

Senator Gary L. Smith Jr.

Representative Randal L. Gaines

Senator Gregory W. Tarver Sr.

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier

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

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

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Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

CORONERS. Provides relative to cremation of bodies. (8/1/23)

Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Added types of testing required to be included in the coroners' post mortem examination and evidence collection, including but not limited to DNA testing, bone, skin, organ, and fluid retention under normal American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors standards, and other evidence.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Add provisions changing "coroner's investigation" to "coroner's post mortem examination and evidence collection"

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

DIGEST

SB 187 Engrossed

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Present law provides that if the cremation of a body is requested, the funeral director shall immediately notify the coroner who has jurisdiction in the death. Proposed law retains present law.

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

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

Present law further provides that the coroner may issue a permit for cremation after completion of his investigation. Proposed law specifies that the permit for cremation shall be denied until the post mortem examination and evidence collection is complete.

Proposed law requires the coroner, upon completion of his post mortem examination and evidence collection, to release the body to the family or friends for disposition in accordance with present law.

Proposed law provides that when the coroner cannot release the body within 30 days of death, the coroner is required to notify in writing the person or persons with the right to dispose of human remains the reasons for any delay in release of the body.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 13:5716)