

SENATE BILL NO. 187

BY SENATOR KLEINPETER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5716, relative to cremation of bodies; to provide for issuance of a permit for cremation by a coroner; to provide for denial of a permit for cremation by a coroner; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

§5716. Cremation of bodies

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

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

C. If the investigation reveals suspicious circumstances or the reasonable probability of the commission of a crime, the coroner shall deny the permit **until the coroner's post mortem examination and evidence collection is completed**. After completion of the coroner's investigation, he may issue a permit for cremation.

D. Upon completion of the coroner's post mortem examination and evidence collection, the coroner shall release the body to the family or friends for disposition in accordance with R.S. 13:5715. In any case under coroner jurisdiction in which the body cannot be released within thirty days of death, the coroner shall notify in writing the person or persons with the right to

1 dispose of human remains under R.S. 8:655 the reasons for any delay in release
2 of the body.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____