



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 323** HLS 26RS 947
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 27, 2026	3:43 PM	Author: NEWELL
Dept./Agy.: Corrections and LDH		
Subject: Notification and Reporting Procedures - Inmate Deaths		Analyst: Daniel Druilhet

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to notification and reporting procedures pertaining to inmate deaths

Currennet law provides for required items to be contained with a death certificate. Proposed law provides for mandatory duties of a supervisor upon discovery of an inmate's death in a correctional facility; provides for the issuance of a preliminary report for each inmate death in accordance with the critical incident reporting requirements; provides for preparation and availability of a comprehensive report within 30 days of the death of the inmate, its submission to the AG and the division of prison operations within DPS&C, as well as availability through a link on the DPS&C website, the correctional facility, or sheriff's office; provides for information to be included within the report; prohibits inclusion of any person involved in any act connected to the death of an inmate when notifying or contacting an immediate family member; requires DPS&C to immediately appoint an independent investigator to examine circumstances of the death and pursue any necessary charges or administrative action; provides for exceptions where reporting and notification requirements do not apply; assesses a sentence of no more than six months imprisonment or a fine of \$1,000, or both, for anyone who fails to comply with notification and reporting procedures; requires a supervisor or the DPS&C to immediately attempt to notify an immediate family member (and have particular information disclosed to them) when an inmate dies of natural causes while attended by a physician or registered nurse; requires LDH to collect certain data for annual analysis of inmate deaths; requires DPS&C and the Sheriff's Association to produce a public report annually analyzing and summarizing aggregate data of inmate deaths, and for the report's publication; requires whether a person died while in prison or serving a sentence to be added to a death certificate.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in an increase of \$15,000 in SGF expenditures in the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) in FY 27 and an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures in the Department of Public Safety and Corrections-Corrections Services. The increase in expenditures is associated with costs for system updates, and new data collection and the costs to perform autopsies on each death within state correctional facilities.

Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)

Proposed law will result in a one-time increase of \$15,000 in SGF expenditures in LDH associated with costs for system updates and new data collection contemplated. The proposed law will require that LDH update the Louisiana Electronic Event Registration System (LEERS) to include an indicator reflecting whether the decedent was in custody at the time of death. Additionally, a separate data collection process will be established in coordination with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to capture information required by the proposed law, including the deceased inmate's sentence length, facility, and housing location at the time of death, preliminary cause of death, among other facts surrounding his death.

Department of Public Safety and Corrections-Corrections Services (DPS&C-CS)

Proposed law will result in an indeterminable increase in SGF expenditures in DPS&C-CS, associated with costs to perform autopsies on each death within state correctional facilities. The proposed law requires that DPS&C investigate each inmate death and make a good faith effort to include all facts relevant to the death within a report, including the preliminary cause of the inmate's death. The proposed law also requires that an autopsy be performed on each deceased inmate whose death occurred by natural causes. The exact fiscal impact is indeterminable, because the number of inmate deaths that will occur in state correctional facilities each year is unknown.

Note: The cost to perform an autopsy is \$300 per autopsy, and based upon historical data, there have been an average of 115 inmate deaths per year that occurred as a result of natural causes. Using this five year average, if inmate deaths from natural causes were to continue at the average five-year annual rate, DPS&C-CS may sustain annual expenditures of approximately \$34,500 per year to conduct autopsies.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO]

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Department of Public Safety and Corrections-Youth Services (Office of Juvenile Justice) and Local Sheriffs

Proposed law will result in an indeterminable increase in workload in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Sheriffs, to the extent that the agencies work along with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections-Corrections Services to capture and report information required by the proposed law, including deceased inmates' sentence length, facility and housing location at the time of death, preliminary cause of death, among other facts surrounding his death. The exact impact of the proposed law to the workload in the Office of Juvenile Justice is indeterminable, as it is unknown the extent to which information and data generated will impact the amount of workload relative to reporting.

Note: The LFO is working with the Office of Juvenile Justice and the Louisiana Sheriffs Association to obtain information regarding the deaths of inmates in parish jails and juveniles in detention facilities, and whether those deaths occurred as a result of natural causes, to generate information on potential costs related to autopsies that may be performed and the impact to SGF and Local Funds expenditures. This information will be updated as it becomes available.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
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House
6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Signature of Patrice Thomas
Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer