

SENATE BILL NO. 29

BY SENATORS MCMATH, ABRAHAM, BARROW, CARTER, CATHEY, HENRY, HODGES, MIZELL, MYERS AND STINE AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BAYHAM, DICKERSON, GALLE, JACOB LANDRY, MCMAKIN, OWEN, WRIGHT AND WYBLE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:31.14(A) and to enact R.S. 13:5713(L), relative to autopsies  
3 of children; to provide for access to immunization records; to provide for the review  
4 of immunization records; to provide for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:5713(L) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §5713. Duties; autopsies and investigations

8 \* \* \*

9 **L.(1) Any autopsy report, as provided for in R.S. 44:19, for a child under**  
10 **the age of nine who dies unexpectedly without explanation shall include**  
11 **documentation of any immunizations administered to the child within ninety**  
12 **days before the child's death. The coroner or any individual contracted to**  
13 **perform an autopsy on behalf of the coroner, including but not limited to a**  
14 **forensic pathologist or his designee, shall be granted access to the child's**  
15 **immunization records in the state immunization registry.**

16 **(2) If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death**  
17 **Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death**  
18 **Syndrome, or Sudden Death in the Young, he shall report the case to the**  
19 **Louisiana Department of Health. The Louisiana Department of Health shall**  
20 **report the case to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the**  
21 **National Institutes of Health's Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden**  
22 **Death in the Young Case Registry.**

23 **(3) The inclusion of an immunization record in any report shall not**  
24 **imply cause of death.**

1 Section 2. R.S. 40:31.14(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

2 §31.14. Authorization of release of immunization records

3 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, immunization  
4 records for use in an immunization registry shall not be considered privileged  
5 communications between a healthcare provider and patient when such records are  
6 used in accordance with the provisions of this Part. The Louisiana Department of  
7 Health, public health units and their agents, providers, coroners or any individual  
8 contracted to perform an autopsy on behalf of a coroner, parents or guardians,  
9 schools, and early learning centers may obtain information from, or provide  
10 information to, the immunization record of a client of any immunization registry  
11 without the written consent of a client.

12 \* \* \*

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_