

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 623

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part V of Chapter 36 of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be  
3 comprised of R.S. 13:5761 through 5764, relative to the Webster Parish coroner's  
4 office; to provide for the creation of a taxing district to fund the Webster Parish  
5 coroner's office; to provide for the boundaries of the district; to authorize the levy  
6 and collection of ad valorem taxes, subject to voter approval; to provide for the use  
7 of such proceeds; to provide for the powers and duties of the coroner's office; and to  
8 provide for related matters.

9 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published  
10 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of  
11 Louisiana.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. Part V of Chapter 36 of Title 13 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of  
14 1950, comprised of R.S. 13:5761 through 5764, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 PART V. WEBSTER PARISH

16 §5761. Assessment district; creation; boundaries; and governance

17 A. There is hereby created within the parish of Webster, as more specifically  
18 provided in Subsection B of this Section, a body politic and corporate which shall  
19 be known as the "Coroner's Office Funding District", hereinafter in this Section  
20 referred to as the "district". The district shall be a political subdivision of the state  
21 as defined in the Constitution of Louisiana and created for the purpose of funding the  
22 office of coroner for Webster Parish.

1           B. The boundaries of the district shall be coterminous with the boundaries  
 2           of the parish, and the duly elected coroner of the parish or a person acting in that  
 3           capacity, shall be the governing authority of the district.

4           §5762. Authority to tax

5           A. The district, through its governing authority, may levy and collect an ad  
 6           valorem tax not to exceed eight mills on the dollar of assessed valuation on all  
 7           taxable property situated within the boundaries of the district. The district may levy  
 8           the tax only if the amount, term, and purpose of such tax, as set out in a proposition  
 9           submitted to a vote in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code, has been  
 10          approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting on the  
 11          proposition at an election held for that purpose.

12          B. The taxes shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as  
 13          all other ad valorem taxes on property subject to taxation by the parish of Webster.

14          C. The revenue generated by the tax levied pursuant to this Section is not  
 15          subject to deductions for retirement systems.

16          §5763. Tax proceeds; compensation of coroner and employees

17          The proceeds of the tax shall be used solely and exclusively for the purposes  
 18          and benefit of the district and in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

19          (1) An annual salary shall be paid to the coroner for his services as Webster  
 20          Parish coroner or ex officio parish physician or health officer. The coroner's salary  
 21          shall be payable on his own warrant.

22          (2) All salaries or fees of deputy or assistant coroners, secretaries,  
 23          stenographers, clerks, technicians, investigators, official photographers, or other  
 24          assistants shall be paid from the proceeds of the tax.

25          (3) All necessary expenses incidental to and associated with the operation  
 26          and functions of the coroner's office including maintenance, utilities, equipment,  
 27          supplies, goods, and services shall be paid in accordance with the budget of the  
 28          office of the coroner.

1           (4) The parish governing authority or any local municipality shall not be  
2           obligated to pay any fee or cost associated with the operation and administration of  
3           the coroner's office.

4           §5764. Powers and duties

5           A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the coroner or his  
6           designee, may purchase or rent immovable property as necessary for the performance  
7           of the coroner's official duties. The ownership of such property shall be vested in the  
8           name of the office of the coroner for the parish of Webster, provided that all  
9           purchases and rentals are funded through the budget for the office of the coroner.

10           B. The coroner shall establish and set the salaries and benefits for the deputy  
11           coroners, secretaries, stenographers, clerks, technicians, investigators, official  
12           photographers, or any other office assistants subject to the approval of the parish  
13           governing authority.

14           C. Except as provided for in Subsection E of this Section, the coroner shall  
15           be responsible for contracting and funding all services and obligations including but  
16           not limited to autopsies, morgue operations, investigations, court appearances and  
17           testimonies, interdictions and commitments of mental or incompetent cases, and  
18           attending or assisting physicians in interdiction or commitment cases.

19           D. The coroner shall receive a reasonable fee or compensation for any  
20           physical or mental examination or investigation that is requested by the district  
21           attorney, or any judge, sheriff, or chief of police of Webster Parish, or by any  
22           responsible citizen or resident when acting in good faith in an emergency and in the  
23           furtherance of the public good and safety.

24           E. The parish governing authority shall pay a reasonable fee or remuneration  
25           for mental or physical examinations, investigations, commitments, interdictions,  
26           court attendance, or testimony associated with any parish inmate.

1                    F. Nothing contained in this Section shall be interpreted as diminishing any  
 2                    of the authority of the coroner as delegated to him in the constitution and laws of this  
 3                    state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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