

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 241

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

PUBLIC RECORDS. Provides right of access to autopsy records, coroner's reports and similar documents. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5713(J), relative to duty to hold autopsies and investigations;

3 to provide relative to autopsy records, writings, and documents and coroner reports;

4 to provide relative to persons authorized to receive autopsy records, writings, and

5 documents and coroner reports; to provide with respect to authorization of family

6 members and next of kin to receive autopsy records, writings, and documents and

7 coroner reports; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 13:5713(J) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §5713. Duty to hold autopsies, investigations, etc.

11 * * *

12 J. Autopsy reports, records, writings, and documents of any description

13 in any way compiled, drafted or recorded in connection with an autopsy

14 prepared by the coroner or his designee are public records. The coroner shall provide

15 one copy of the autopsy report, records, writings, and documents of any

16 description in any way compiled, drafted or recorded in connection with an

17 autopsy upon request by ~~the next of kin~~ the parent, sibling, child, grandchild,

writings, and documents of any description in any way compiled, drafted or recorded in connection with an autopsy upon request by the next of kin if there is no surviving parent, sibling, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt or uncle at no charge to the next of kin.

Proposed law provides that the coroner shall provide copies of the autopsy report, records, writings, and documents of any description in any way compiled, drafted or recorded in connection with an autopsy at no charge to the appropriate law enforcement agencies as requested. The public records fee for any other copy of an autopsy report shall be the same as that charged by the registrar of vital records for the state for a death certificate.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 13:5713(J))