

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 627

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

CORONERS: Provides relative to services provided by coroners

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5706(A) and (B)(2) and (3) and 5710, relative to coroners;
3 to authorize an increase in fees for specific services; to eliminate fees relative to
4 assisting physicians; to require each parish to provide suitable quarters for the
5 coroner's office and decedent storage; to provide relative to autopsy fees and expert
6 fees; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:5706(A) and (B)(2) and (3) and 5710 are hereby amended and
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 §5706. Fees for coroner's services

11 A.(1) The coroner shall receive:

12 (a) For every investigation, including issuing necessary papers and reports,
13 ~~fifty one hundred~~ one hundred dollars.

14 (b) For viewing bodies, ~~fifty one hundred~~ one hundred dollars.

15 (c) ~~For the performance of an autopsy, a fee of not less than two hundred~~
16 ~~fifty dollars nor more than three hundred dollars, at the discretion of the governing~~
17 ~~authority of the parish or municipality, and the cost of any laboratory tests actually~~
18 ~~incurred.~~

19 (d) For attendance or testimony in any case in court ~~in~~ and matters arising
20 from his official duties, ~~seventy-five dollars per day per case~~ two hundred fifty
21 dollars per hour.

- (4) For papers issued in each interdiction case or commitment of mental or incompetent case, from \$50 to \$100.

Present law requires that each parish furnish essential supplies and equipment for the coroner's office or morgue once quarters for an office or morgue have been established.

Proposed law requires that suitable quarters with necessary supplies and equipment for each coroner's office and decedent storage be established by the respective parish within government owned or leased facilities.

Present law authorizes a just fee or remuneration for attending parish prisoners.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law provides for an autopsy fee of \$250-\$300 and requires the approval of the governing authority of the parish and municipality to charge more than \$250 for an autopsy. Further requires the coroner to list all fees for which a charge of \$50 is authorized by law in a schedule to be filed annually with the governing authority.

Proposed law deletes the monetary limits which can be charged for an autopsy and be included on the schedule submitted annually from \$50 to \$100.

Present law authorizes the coroner to contract with any competent physician or expert to assist in conducting an investigation or autopsy but limits the fees of any physician or expert to \$500 unless mutually agreed upon by the coroner and the chief executive officer or chief fiscal officer of the parish or municipality.

Proposed law maintains present law except that it changes the expert provisions from a limit of \$500 to those customarily charged in other similarly qualified instances.

(Amends R.S. 13:5706(A) and (B)(2) and (3) and 5710)