
DIGEST

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Henry Burns

HB No. 119

Abstract: Authorizes crime lab employees and other forensics personnel to testify through the use of audiovisual equipment.

Proposed law authorizes the following persons to testify by simultaneous transmission through audiovisual equipment, if such technology is available in the courtroom, during any criminal proceeding, juvenile or family court proceeding which is of a criminal nature, and any civil forfeiture proceeding arising from alleged criminal activity:

- (1) Employees of criminalistics laboratories.
- (2) Coroners.
- (3) Forensic pathologists.
- (4) Any other person practicing in the field of knowledge and expertise in the gathering, examination, and analysis of evidence by scientific means.

Proposed law provides that the party seeking to offer testimony via audiovisual equipment shall, not less than ten days prior to the commencement of the proceeding, provide written notice to the opposing counsel.

Proposed law provides the party seeking to introduce testimony via audiovisual equipment shall be responsible for coordinating the audio-visual feed into the courtroom.

Proposed law provides that proposed law shall not be construed as to prohibit the use of a subpoena to compel any such witness to physically appear and testify in person.

(Adds R.S. 15:502)