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## DIGEST

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HB 195 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Jim Morris

**Abstract:** Provides for the appointment of one or more assistant coroners in addition to the appointment of one or more deputy coroners, requires deputy and assistant coroners to take an oath of office, and requires certain persons to immediately notify the coroner of a death under certain circumstances.

Present law provides that the medical pronouncement of death by a coroner may be based on personal observation, information, or statements obtained from coroner investigators or emergency medical technicians at the scene who are reporting from firsthand observation of the physical condition of the deceased. Provides that the name of the personnel that the coroner is relying on shall be noted on the coroner's day record or protocol.

Proposed law retains present law and adds registered nurses and physician assistants to the list of persons upon whose information the coroner may base the medical pronouncement of death, and changes the term "day record or protocol" to "investigative report".

Present law provides that each coroner may appoint one or more deputy or assistant coroners who possess the same qualifications as the coroner and who need not be residents of the parish, but requires that if a deputy or assistant coroner is not a resident of the parish, that person shall be a licensed physician.

Proposed law retains present law relative to deputy coroners, but provides that in addition to one or more deputy coroners, the coroner may also appoint one or more assistant coroners who are not required to have the same qualifications as the coroner.

Proposed law authorizes an assistant coroner to serve on a part-time basis for a term not to exceed that of the coroner, and who may serve as an assistant coroner in more than one parish.

Proposed law requires all deputy and assistant coroners to take an oath of office.

Present law requires a physician or other person having knowledge of a death under sudden, accidental, violent, or suspicious circumstances or without medical attendance within 36 hours prior to death to immediately notify the coroner of the death.

Proposed law reduces the time period from 36 hours to 24 hours.

(Amends R.S. 9:111(B) and R.S. 13:5705 and 5712(A))