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## DIGEST

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HB 240 Engrossed

2020 Regular Session

Hughes

**Abstract:** Provides that the La. Dept. of Health through the office of behavioral health shall be authorized as an agency that may monitor and review deaths of persons receiving services through its office.

Present law provides that the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) through the office for citizens with developmental disabilities and the office of aging and adult services are authorized to monitor and review deaths of persons receiving services through its offices.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the office of behavioral health shall have the authority to monitor and review deaths of persons receiving services through its office.

Present law provides for the following duties of LDH through the office for citizens with developmental disabilities and the office of aging and adult services:

- (1) In each death reviewed, the offices shall obtain data and records relevant to the cause of death from providers, including health care providers, as well.
- (2) Shall identify patterns and systemic problems to determine what changes, if any, should be in service delivery.

Proposed law changes present law by adding that the office of behavioral health shall follow the duties in present law in reviewing each death of persons receiving services through its office.

Present law provides that a health care provider shall have the meaning as defined in present law, R.S. 13:3734(A)(1). Further provides that "office" shall mean the office for citizens with developmental disabilities or the office of aging and adult services.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that a health care provider shall also mean a licensed mental health professional as defined in present law, R.S. 40:2153, and other agencies who are licensed or certified by LDH to deliver health care or related services. Further provides that "office" shall mean the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of behavioral health, or the office of aging and adult services.

Present law provides that the office for citizens with developmental disabilities and the office of aging and adult services are authorized to access death certificates in the custody of the department, autopsy reports, and records of all service providers, including medical records in the custody of

health care providers, of persons being served through the offices at the time of death.

Proposed law revises present law and states that the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, the office of behavioral health, and the office of aging and adult services are also authorized to access coroner reports along with other reports provided for in present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 40:2020(A), (B)(2) and (3), (C)(intro. para.) and (D)(1))