

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 44

BY REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY

CORONERS: Requires coroners to report unidentified remains to the federal missing and unidentified persons database

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5714(A), relative to coroners; to provide with respect to
3 certain duties; to expand notification of next of kin requirements; to provide for
4 legislative intent; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 13:5714(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §5714. Notification of next of kin

8 A.(1) The coroner or his designee shall make every reasonable effort to
9 notify the next of kin in all cases of deaths for which he has jurisdiction including
10 but not limited to deaths enumerated in R.S. 13:5713(A).

11 (2) If the coroner or his designee is unable to notify the next of kin not later
12 than the tenth working day after the latter of viewing the body or commencement of
13 the investigation into the cause and manner of death, he shall enter all available
14 identifying features of the unidentified remains including but not limited to
15 fingerprints, dental records, any unusual physical characteristics, and a description
16 of the clothing found on the remains into the National Missing and Unidentified
17 Persons System.

18 * * *

19 Section 2. It is the policy and intent of the legislature to assist family members of
20 missing persons in identifying their missing loved ones.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 44 Original

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Mandie Landry

Abstract: Requires coroners to report unidentified remains to the federal database after 10 working days.

Present law provides that the coroner or his designee shall make every reasonable effort to notify the next of kin for all cases within his jurisdiction.

Proposed law retains present law and requires the coroner to enter all available identifying features of the unidentified remains into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System after 10 working days.

Proposed law provides for legislative policy and intent.

(Amends R.S. 13:5714(A))