
DIGEST

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HB 323 Original

2026 Regular Session

Newell

Abstract: Provides relative to notification and reporting procedures pertaining to inmate deaths.

Proposed law defines the terms "correctional facility", "department" as the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), "immediate family member", and "supervisor".

Proposed law provides for the mandatory duties of a supervisor upon discovery that the death of an inmate has occurred at a correctional facility.

Proposed law provides for the issuance of a preliminary report for each inmate death in accordance with the critical incident reporting requirements of the DPS&C and provides for the sharing of this report with an immediate family member at no cost.

Proposed law provides for the preparation and availability of a comprehensive report within 30 days of the death of an inmate. Further provides for submission of the report to both the attorney general and the division of prison operations within the DPS&C as well as availability through a link on the applicable website of the DPS&C, correctional facility, or sheriff's office.

Proposed law provides for the information to be included within the comprehensive report.

Proposed law prohibits the inclusion of any person involved in any act that is connected to the death of an inmate when notifying or contacting an immediate family member.

Proposed law requires the DPS&C to immediately appoint an independent investigator or investigative entity to examine the circumstances of the death and to pursue any necessary charges or administrative action.

Proposed law provides for duties of the division of prison operations within the DPS&C.

Proposed law provides for exceptions where reporting and notification pursuant to proposed law do not apply.

Proposed law provides a penalty of imprisonment for not more than six months or a fine of \$1,000, or both, for anyone who intentionally fails to comply with the provisions of proposed law.

Proposed law requires that a supervisor or the DPS&C immediately attempt to notify an immediate family member when an inmate dies of natural causes while attended by a physician or a registered

nurse. Further provides for particular information that is to be disclosed to the immediate family member.

Proposed law requires the La. Dept. of Health (LDH) to collect certain data for an annual analysis of all inmate deaths.

Proposed law requires the DPS&C and La. Sheriffs' Assoc. to jointly produce a public report on an annual basis that analyzes and summarizes the aggregate data, categorized by facility, of inmate deaths with certain information.

Proposed law provides for the collection of data on inmate deaths in a timely fashion and through standardized instruments. Further provides for the publishing of the report no later than Dec. 31st of each year.

Present law (R.S. 40:34.10) provides for the required items to be contained within a death certificate.

Proposed law retains present law and adds an item for whether the person died while in prison or while serving a sentence, if applicable.

(Amends R.S. 40:34.10(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 15:716-716.4 and R.S. 40:34.10(20))