



1 **administered to the child within ninety days before the child's death.**

2 (d) The coroner shall furnish a death certificate based upon his autopsy with  
3 his statement, to the best of his knowledge, of the cause and manner of death.

4 (2) If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death  
5 Syndrome, he shall notify the director of the parish health unit within forty-eight  
6 hours after such determination.

7 (3) **If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death**  
8 **Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death**  
9 **Syndrome, or Sudden Death in the Young, he shall report the case to the**  
10 **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of**  
11 **Health's Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case**  
12 **Registry.**

13 (4) In preparing the certificate of death, the coroner may not, in lieu of an  
14 autopsy, rely on statements of relatives, persons in attendance during the last  
15 sickness, persons present at the time of death, or other persons having adequate  
16 knowledge of the facts, even if such data may be permitted in other cases in this  
17 Section.

18 ~~(4)~~(5) The coroner shall not perform an autopsy if the parents of the ~~infant~~  
19 **child** provide to the coroner their objection in writing, unless the coroner finds that  
20 the facts surrounding the death require that an autopsy be performed in the interest  
21 of the public safety, public health, or public welfare.

22 (6) **The inclusion of an immunization record in any report shall not**  
23 **imply cause of death.**

24 \* \* \*

25 **L.(1) The death investigation report for any child under the age of fifteen**  
26 **who dies unexpectedly without explanation shall include documentation of any**  
27 **immunizations administered to the child within ninety days before the child's**  
28 **death, as available through the state immunization registry.**

29 (2) **If the coroner finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death**

1           Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death  
 2           Syndrome, or Sudden Death in the Young, he shall report the case to the  
 3           Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of  
 4           Health's Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case  
 5           Registry.

6                   (3) The inclusion of an immunization record in any report shall not  
 7           imply cause of death.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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## DIGEST

SB 29 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

McMath

Present law requires the coroner to perform or cause to be performed an autopsy in all cases of infants under the age of one year who die unexpectedly without explanation.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires a review of a child's immunization records through the state immunization registry for any child under the age of fifteen who dies unexpectedly without explanation or the death investigation.

Proposed law requires the autopsy report for any child under the age of one who dies unexpectedly without explanation or the death investigation report for any child under the age of 15 who dies unexpectedly without explanation to include documentation of any immunizations administered to the child within 90 days of the child's death.

Present law requires the coroner to notify the director of the parish health unit if he finds that the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Proposed law requires the coroner to report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health's Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry if he finds that the cause of a child's death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome, or Sudden Death in the Young.

Proposed law provides that the inclusion of an immunization record in any report does not imply cause of death.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 13:5713(C); adds R.S. 13:5713(L))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Reverts autopsy requirements for children who die unexpectedly and without cause to present law requirements.
2. Changes proposed law reporting requirement from a mandatory autopsy report requirement to inclusion in existing reports prepared by the coroner or competent physician designated by the coroner.
3. Provides that the inclusion of an immunization record in any report does not imply cause of death.