2015 Regular Session

1

HOUSE BILL NO. 195

## BY REPRESENTATIVE JIM MORRIS

2	To amend and reenact R.S. 9:111(B) and R.S. 13:5705 and 5712(A), relative to coroners;
3	to provide relative to the information upon which the coroner bases the medical
4	pronouncement of death; to provide for the notification of death to the coroner; to
5	provide relative to the appointment of deputy and assistant coroners and their
6	qualifications; and to provide for related matters.
7	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
8	Section 1. R.S. 9:111(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:
9	§111. Definition of death
10	* * *
11	B. The medical pronouncement of death by a coroner may also be based on
12	personal observation, information, or statements obtained from coroner investigators,
13	registered nurses, physician assistants, or emergency medical technicians at the scene
14	who are reporting from firsthand observation of the physical condition of the
15	deceased. The time of death shall be reported as the time that the death was reported
16	or discovered. The name of the personnel that the coroner is relying on shall be
17	noted on the coroner's day record or protocol investigative report.
18	Section 2. R.S. 13:5705 and 5712(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
19	follows:

AN ACT

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§5705. Deputy coroners, assistant coroners, secretaries, stenographers, clerks, investigators, technicians, official photographer and other helpers; compensation

A. Each coroner may appoint one or more deputy or assistant coroners to perform his duties, who need not be residents of the parish. However, any person appointed as a deputy or assistant coroner, who is not a resident of the parish, shall be a licensed physician. They shall possess at least the same qualifications as the coroner and be paid by the coroner appointing them or by arrangement with the parish governing authority if the coroner is on a salary basis. A person may serve as a deputy or assistant coroner on a part-time basis in more than one parish. The tenure of the appointment shall be determined by the appointing coroner but shall not be longer than the coroner's term of office. The coroner shall be responsible for the acts of his deputy or assistant coroners.

B. Each coroner may appoint one or more assistant coroners to perform his duties. They shall be paid by the coroner appointing them or by arrangement with the parish governing authority if the coroner is paid on a salary basis. A person may serve as an assistant coroner on a part-time basis in more than one parish. The tenure of the appointment shall be determined by the appointing coroner but shall not be longer than the coroner's term of office. The coroner shall be responsible for the acts of his assistant coroners.

<u>C.</u> The coroner may appoint any necessary secretaries, stenographers, clerks, technicians, investigators, official photographers, or other helpers. The salaries of these employees shall be paid by the coroner out of his fees or by arrangement with the parish governing authority if the coroner is on a salary basis. <u>All deputies and assistants of the coroner shall, before beginning their duties, take an oath of office and the oath shall be entered on the records of the court.</u>

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1 §5712. Notification of death under suspicious circumstances; penalties for failure 2 to comply 3 A. A physician or other person having knowledge of a death under sudden, 4 accidental, violent, or suspicious circumstances or without medical attendance within 5 thirty-six twenty-four hours prior to death shall immediately notify the coroner of the death. 6 7 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

**ENROLLED** 

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APPROVED: