

ACT No. 302

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 195

BY REPRESENTATIVE JIM MORRIS

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 9:111(B) and R.S. 13:5705 and 5712(A), relative to coroners; to provide relative to the information upon which the coroner bases the medical pronouncement of death; to provide for the notification of death to the coroner; to provide relative to the appointment of deputy and assistant coroners and their qualifications; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 9:111(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§111. Definition of death

* * *

B. The medical pronouncement of death by a coroner may also be based on personal observation, information, or statements obtained from coroner investigators, registered nurses, physician assistants, or emergency medical technicians at the scene who are reporting from firsthand observation of the physical condition of the deceased. The time of death shall be reported as the time that the death was reported or discovered. The name of the personnel that the coroner is relying on shall be noted on the coroner's ~~day record or protocol~~ investigative report.

Section 2. R.S. 13:5705 and 5712(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

1 §5705. Deputy coroners, assistant coroners, secretaries, stenographers, clerks,
 2 investigators, technicians, official photographer and other helpers;
 3 compensation

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

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

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

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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
6 death.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____