

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 181****2023 Regular Session****DeVillier**

CORONERS: Provides relative to telemedicine access for coroners

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Restores present law provisions regarding the authority of a coroner or deputy coroner to independently examine the individual 72 hours after admission.
2. Allows a coroner, who is a physician, or his deputy, who is a physician, to utilize telehealth to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.
3. Revises outdated references and terminology in present law.
4. Makes technical corrections.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that a person who has a mental illness or a person who is suffering from a substance-related or addictive disorder may be admitted and detained at a treatment facility for observation, diagnosis, and treatment for a period not to exceed 15 days under an emergency certificate. Present law further provides for the execution of the emergency certificate after an actual examination by a physician, physician assistant, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, other nurse practitioner who acts in accordance with a collaborative practice agreement, or psychologist. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the actual examination of the person by a psychiatrist or psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner may be conducted by telemedicine utilizing video conferencing technology. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that, within 72 hours of admission, the person shall be independently examined by the coroner or his deputy who shall execute an emergency certificate, which shall be a necessary precondition to the person's continued confinement. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a coroner, who is a physician, or his deputy, who is a physician, may utilize telehealth to conduct the 72-hour independent examination.

Present law provides that, subject to specific exceptions in present law, if the original examination by the psychiatrist referred to in present law is conducted by telemedicine, the 72-hour independent examination by the coroner shall be conducted in person. Proposed law removes the specific reference to a psychiatrist and updates terminology and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 28:53(G)(2) and (J)(3))