

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 727 (HB 1253)

2026 Regular Session

Butler

New law enacts the Gracey Claire Rushing Act in memory of a young child whose passing highlighted the need for improved safeguards in the treatment of a decedent's remains.

Existing law provides that a post-mortem forensic medical examination report, known as an autopsy report, contains information including contact information of the decedent, the names of persons performing or present at the autopsy, a summary of the medical findings, and the cause and manner of death.

Existing law further provides that this report is not a public record except when ordered released pursuant to a court order or when the report involves criminal activity or the death of a person in the custody of law enforcement or a corrections entity.

Existing law provides for this report to be made available to law enforcement at no charge, to the next of kin, and to the decedent's physician.

Existing law (R.S. 13:5713(B)(4)(b)) permits the coroner to remove and retain any specimens or organs of a deceased which in his discretion are necessary for further examination.

New law provides for the autopsy report to also include any organs of the deceased that have been retained.

Effective January 1, 2027.

(Amends R.S. 44:19(E)(4))