(KEYWORD, SUMMARY, AND DIGEST as amended by Senate committee amendments)

TRAFFIC/ACCIDENTS. Revises provisions relative to access to accident reports.

DIGEST

Present law requires state police, any local police department, or any sheriff's office to provide copies of crash reports to any interested person upon request. Authorizes these agencies to charge a fee not to exceed the sum of $5 per report which does not exceed two pages and $7.50 per report which exceeds two pages.

Present law provides that the information contained in the accident reports shall be confidential, exempt from the provisions of the public records laws, and shall be made available only to parties of the accident; insurers of any party subject to the report; the succession representatives; or to a news-gathering organization that requests documents related to the accident. Present law further provides that the report shall be made available to these persons within seven working days following completion of the accident investigation.

Proposed law retains present law and defines "news-gathering organization" as any of the following:

(1) A newspaper of general interest with paid subscriptions having been published for a minimum of two years or a print or electronic publication of general interest having been published for a minimum of one year which is a member of a press association and can provide documentation of its membership.

(2) A radio broadcast station, television broadcast station, cable television operator, or wire service as represented by an employee thereof who can provide documentation of his employment.

(Amends R.S. 32:398(K)(1)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill.

1. Removed provisions from the bill regarding confidentiality, availability of accident reports, and restrictions on the type of information which may be redacted from accident reports.

2. Added the definition of "news-gathering organization".

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Changed the definition of "news-gathering organization".

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary B to the reengrossed bill.

1. Clarifies that "news-gathering organization" may be print or electronic publication.

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