Roy (HB 361) **Act No. 280**

Existing 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.

Existing 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. Existing law further provides that the report shall be made available to these persons within seven working days following completion of the accident investigation.

New law retains existing law and defines "news-gathering organization" as any of the following:

(1) A newspaper, or news publication, printed or electronic, of current news and intelligence of varied, broad, and general public interest, having been published for a minimum of one year and that can provide documentation of membership in a statewide or national press association, as represented by an employee thereof who can provide documentation of his employment.

(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.

Effective August 15, 2011.

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