

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 237

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides with respect to criminalistics laboratories

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 15:499(A)(introductory paragraph), relative to certificates of
3 analysis; to provide with respect to proof of analysis or examination of physical
4 evidence; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 15:499(A)(introductory paragraph) is hereby amended and reenacted
7 to read as follows:

8 §499. Certificates of analysis

9 A. All criminalistics laboratories established by laws of this state or by laws
10 of the United States, and all coroners, forensic pathologists, and other persons,
11 partnerships, corporations, and other legal entities practicing in fields of knowledge
12 and expertise in the gathering, examination, and analysis of evidence by scientific
13 means are authorized to make proof of examination and analysis of physical
14 evidence by the certificate of the person ~~in charge of the facility in which such~~
15 ~~examination and analysis is made~~ making the examination or analysis. Such
16 certificate shall list:

17 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Thompson

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Abstract: Provides that the person performing the examination or analysis of physical evidence is authorized to make proof of examination and analysis and deletes provisions requiring the person in charge of the facility to make such proof.

Present law provides that all criminalistics laboratories and all coroners, forensic pathologists, and other persons, partnerships, corporations, and other legal entities practicing in fields of knowledge and expertise in the gathering, examination, and analysis of evidence by scientific means are authorized to make proof of examination and analysis of physical evidence by the certificate of the person in charge of the facility in which such examination and analysis is made.

Proposed law changes present law to authorize the person making the examination or analysis to certify that the examination or analysis was conducted.

(Amends R.S. 15:499(A)(intro. para.)