

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 513

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEFANSKI

CORONERS: Provides relative to coroner duties involving the death of an offender in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 13:5713(K), relative to coroners; to provide relative to the autopsies and
3 investigations of offenders in the custody of the Department of Public Safety and
4 Corrections; to provide relative to the duties of coroners; and to provide for related
5 matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 13:5713(K) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §5713. Duties; autopsies and investigations

9 * * *

10 K. In instances where the coroner declines a request made by the Department
11 of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct an autopsy, make an investigation, or
12 both, into the cause and manner of an offender's death while in the department's
13 custody, the department may seek a coroner from another parish to fulfill the request
14 or may directly obtain an autopsy from a competent physician, at the expense of the
15 department.

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)]

HB 513 Original

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Stefanski

Abstract: Allows the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to request a coroner in another parish or competent physician to conduct an autopsy when a coroner declines.

Present law provides that the coroner shall either view the body or make an investigation into the cause and manner of death in all cases involving many scenarios including but not limited to deaths in prison or while serving a sentence.

Proposed law provides that in the instance when the coroner declines a request made by the department, the department may then request a coroner in another parish to fulfill the request or a competent physician to conduct an autopsy at the expense of the department.

(Adds R.S. 13:5713(K))