SENATE BILL NO. 684

BY SENATOR CROWE

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1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 28:53(G)(2) and to enact R.S. 28:53(G)(7), relative to coroners;
3	to provide relative to admission by emergency certificate and the coroner's seventy-
4	two-hour rule regarding patients who are out of the parish at the time of
5	commitment; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 28:53 (G)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 28:53(G)(7)
8	is hereby enacted to read as follows:
9	§53. Admission by emergency certificate; extension
10	* * *
11	G.(1) * * *
12	(2) Within seventy-two hours of admission, the person shall be independently
13	examined by the coroner or his deputy who shall execute an emergency certificate,
14	pursuant to Subsection B of this Section, which shall be a necessary precondition to
15	the person's continued confinement. If Except as provided in Paragraph (7) of this
16	Subsection, if the actual examination by the psychiatrist in Paragraph (1) of
17	Subsection B of this Section is conducted by telemedicine, the seventy-two-hour
18	independent examination by the coroner shall be conducted in person.
19	* * *
20	(7) As it relates to a parish which has a population between one hundred
21	and ninety-one thousand and one hundred ninety-two thousand residents.
22	according to the latest federal decennial census, all of the following shall apply:
23	(a) The coroner or deputy coroner, who is a physician, preferably a

psychiatrist, may conduct an examination and execute an emergency certificate,

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as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph by telemedicine utilizing 2 video conferencing equipment, provided that all of the following are met: 3 (i) A licensed health care professional, who can adequately and accurately assist with obtaining any necessary information including but not 4 limited to that information in Paragraph (B)(4) of this Section and where such 5 health care professional will be present in the examining room with the patient 6 7 at the time of the video conferencing. 8 (ii) The coroner or deputy coroner who is a physician, preferably a 9 psychiatrist, shall comply with all of the provisions in Subsection F of this 10 Section. 11 (b) The coroner or deputy coroner, who is a physician, preferably a 12 psychiatrist, may conduct an examination and execute an emergency certificate, 13 as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph by telemedicine under all of the following circumstances: 14 15 (i) If the initial examination, pursuant to Paragraph (B)(1) of this Section, has been made in person by a psychiatrist, psychiatric mental health 16 17 nurse practitioner, or a psychologist. 18 (ii) If the coroner conducted the initial examination, pursuant to Paragraph (3) of this Subsection, by telemedicine and has executed the first 19 20 emergency commitment certificate, a second examination shall be made in person within the seventy-two hour period set forth in this Part by any 21 22 psychiatrist, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or a psychologist at 23 the treatment facility where the person is confined. 24 (c)(i) When a patient is transferred from another parish pursuant to an emergency certificate, a second physician's emergency certificate may be 25 executed by a physician at the admitting facility. 26 (ii) The coroner shall be notified immediately following the execution of 27 the second emergency certificate and shall conduct an independent examination 28 29 within seventy-two hours as provided in Paragraph (2) of this Subsection, in the 30 manner provided in accordance with Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

1 (iii) Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize a period of 2 commitment to exceed fifteen days from the date and time the initial emergency 3 certificate was executed in the parish of origin. 4 5 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature 6 7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If 8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become 9 effective on the day following such approval. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA APPROVED: _____

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