

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE BILL NO. 738

BY SENATORS MORRELL, BROOME, DORSEY-COLOMB AND HEITMEIER AND  
REPRESENTATIVES BROSSETT, LEGER AND MORENO

HOMICIDE. Provides relative to a claim of self-defense. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 14:20.1, relative to self-defense; to require full investigation of all deaths due to violence or suspicious circumstances when a claim of self-defense is raised; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 14:20.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§20.1. Investigation of death due to violence or suspicious circumstances when claim of self-defense is raised**

**Whenever a death results from violence or under suspicious circumstances and a claim of self-defense is raised, the appropriate law enforcement agency and coroner shall expeditiously conduct a full investigation of the death. All evidence of such investigation shall be preserved.**

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 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument was prepared by Cathy R. Wells. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

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#### DIGEST

Morrell (SB 738)

Proposed law provides that whenever a death results from violence or under suspicious circumstances and a claim of self-defense is raised, the appropriate law enforcement agency and coroner must expeditiously conduct a full investigation of the death and all evidence of such investigation is to be preserved.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 14:20.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Deletes proposed law relative to prohibitions on claims of self-defense.
2. Adds proposed law relative to investigations of claims of self-defense.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Deletes requirement that evidence be preserved in accordance with Public Records Law.