

SENATE BILL NO. 402

BY SENATOR MILLS

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 13:5713(A) and 5715(A), R.S. 14:30(B)(1), and 95(H), and R.S.  
3 17:2355.1, relative to coroners; to provide relative to duties; to provide relative to  
4 duties regarding paupers; to include coroners as peace officers for certain purposes;  
5 to provide for the carrying of concealed weapons by coroners; to provide relative to  
6 the search and disclosure of records by coroners; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 13:5713(A) and 5715(A) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
9 as follows:

10 §5713. Duty to hold autopsies, investigations, etc.

11 A. The coroner shall either view the body or make an investigation into the  
12 cause and manner of death in all cases involving the following:

13 (1) Suspicious, unexpected, or unusual deaths.

14 (2) Sudden or violent deaths.

15 (3) Deaths due to unknown or obscure causes or in any unusual manner.

16 (4) Bodies found dead.

17 (5) ~~Deaths without an attending physician within thirty-six hours prior to the~~  
18 ~~hour of death.~~

19 (6) Deaths due to suspected suicide or homicide.

20 (7) (6) Deaths in which poison is suspected.

21 (8) (7) Any death from natural causes occurring in a hospital under twenty-  
22 four hours **of** admission ~~unless seen by a physician in the last thirty-six hours.~~

23 (9) (8) Deaths following an injury or accident either old or recent.

24 (10) (9) Deaths due to drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot  
25 wounds, stabs or cutting, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism,  
26 addiction, tetanus, strangulation, suffocation, or smothering.



1 attorney, or district attorney's investigator, **coroner, deputy coroner, or coroner**  
2 **investigator.**

3 \* \* \*

4 §95. Illegal carrying of weapons

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6 H. The provisions of this Section shall not prohibit active justices or judges  
7 of the supreme court, courts of appeal, district courts, parish courts, juvenile courts,  
8 family courts, city courts, federal courts domiciled in the state of Louisiana, and  
9 traffic courts, constables, coroners, **designated coroner investigators,** district  
10 attorneys and designated assistant district attorneys, United States attorneys and  
11 assistant United States attorneys and investigators, and justices of the peace from  
12 possessing and concealing a handgun on their person when the justice or judge,  
13 constable, coroner, **designated coroner investigators,** district attorneys and  
14 designated assistant district attorneys, United States attorneys and assistant United  
15 States attorneys and investigators, or justices of the peace are certified by the  
16 Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 3. R.S. 17:2355.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

19 §2355.1. Search for document of anatomical gift; notification

20 A. The following persons shall make a reasonable search of a person  
21 reasonably believed to be near death for a document of gift or other information  
22 identifying the person as a donor or a person who has refused to make such a  
23 donation:

24 (1) Any law enforcement officer, fireman, paramedic, or any other  
25 emergency rescuer assisting the person.

26 (2) **A coroner or his designee.**

27 (3) Any hospital, as soon as practical after the arrival of the person.

28 B. **Upon death of a person, a coroner or his designee shall make a**  
29 **reasonable search of that person for a document of gift or other information as**  
30 **a donor or a person who has refused to make such a donation.**

1                    C. If a document of gift or refusal to make an anatomical gift is located in  
2                    accordance with this Section, and the person or decedent to whom the document is  
3                    related is taken to a hospital, the document of gift or refusal shall be sent to the  
4                    hospital.

5                    ~~C.~~ D. A person shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability for failing to  
6                    discharge the duties imposed by this Section but may be subject to administrative  
7                    sanctions.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_