



*Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments**

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Legislative Service Commission

Sub. H.B. 235

126th General Assembly
(S. Judiciary Civil Justice)

The Senate committee adopted the following amendments:

1. Requires the coroner to provide any photograph or suicide note to the representative of the estate of a decedent if there is no surviving person who may make a written request as next of kin for the photograph or suicide note or if all next of kin of the decedent have died without making a request.
2. Allows a journalist or insurer to submit a written request to the coroner to view certain specified information regarding a decedent (preliminary autopsy and investigative notes and findings, suicide notes, photographs, etc.) under certain specified circumstances, requires the coroner to grant any such request, and specifies purposes for which an insurer may utilize the records.
3. Generally prohibits the coroner from removing any specimens, except for a DNA specimen, from the body of a deceased person if the coroner has reason to believe that the autopsy is contrary to the deceased person's religious beliefs.
4. Permits the coroner to allow "interested persons" to view an autopsy of a decedent without the person receiving permission to view the autopsy from the decedent's next of kin, but prohibits a person under the age of 18 who is not an "interested person" from viewing an autopsy.
5. Includes among the list of unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance the disclosing of a coroner's records by an insurer in violation of the law.

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* This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate floor.