



HOUSE BILL No. 6100

September 19, 1996, Introduced by Rep. Law and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

A bill to amend sections 2, 3, and 5 of Act No. 181 of the Public Acts of 1953, entitled as amended

"An act relative to investigations in certain instances of the causes of death within this state due to violence, negligence or other act or omission of a criminal nature or to protect public health; to provide for the taking of statements from injured persons under certain circumstances; to abolish the office of coroner and to create the office of county medical examiner in certain counties; to prescribe the powers and duties of county medical examiners; to prescribe penalties for violations of the provisions of this act; and to prescribe a referendum thereon,"

section 5 as amended by Act No. 401 of the Public Acts of 1980, being sections 52.202, 52.203, and 52.205 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Section 1. Sections 2, 3, and 5 of Act No. 181 of the
2 Public Acts of 1953, section 5 as amended by Act No. 401 of the
3 Public Acts of 1980, being sections 52.202, 52.203, and 52.205 of
4 the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 2. (1) ~~County~~ A COUNTY medical ~~examiners~~ EXAMINER
 2 or deputy county medical ~~examiners~~ EXAMINER shall ~~make inves-~~
 3 ~~tigations as to~~ INVESTIGATE the cause and manner of death in
 4 ~~all~~ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING cases: ~~of persons who have come to~~
 5 ~~their death~~

6 (A) THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO HAS DIED by violence. ~~, or~~

7 (B) THE CASE OF A PERSON whose death was unexpected. ~~, or~~

8 (C) THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO HAS DIED without medical
 9 attendance during the 48 hours ~~prior to~~ IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
 10 the hour of death, unless the attending physician, if any, is
 11 able to determine accurately the cause of death. ~~, or~~

12 (D) THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO HAS DIED as the result of an
 13 abortion, whether self-induced or otherwise.

14 (E) THE CASE OF A PERSON WHO HAS DIED AT THE SCENE OF A
 15 FIRE.

16 (2) If ~~any~~ A prisoner in ~~any~~ A county or city jail dies
 17 while ~~so~~ imprisoned, the county medical examiner, upon being
 18 notified of the death of the prisoner, shall ~~make an examination~~
 19 ~~upon~~ EXAMINE the body of the deceased prisoner.

20 Sec. 3. ~~Any physician and any~~ A PHYSICIAN, A person in
 21 charge of ~~any~~ A hospital or institution, or ~~any~~ A person who
 22 ~~shall have~~ HAS first knowledge of the death of ~~any~~ A person
 23 who ~~shall have~~ died suddenly, unexpectedly, accidentally, vio-
 24 lently, ~~or~~ as the result of ~~any~~ suspicious circumstances, AT
 25 THE SCENE OF A FIRE, or without medical attendance during the 48
 26 hours ~~prior to~~ IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING the hour of death, unless
 27 the attending physician, if any, is able to determine accurately

1 the cause of death, or in any case of death due to what is
2 commonly known as an abortion, whether self-induced or otherwise,
3 shall notify the county medical examiner or his OR HER deputy
4 immediately of the death.

5 Sec. 5. (1) ~~when~~ IF a county medical examiner has notice
6 that ~~there has been found within his or her county or district~~
7 the body of a person who ~~is supposed to have come to his or her~~
8 ~~death~~ MAY HAVE DIED in a manner ~~as indicated~~ DESCRIBED in sec-
9 tion 3 HAS BEEN FOUND WITHIN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S GEOGRAPHICAL
10 JURISDICTION, the COUNTY medical examiner shall take charge of
11 the body. ~~and if, on view of~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (3), IF
12 AFTER EXAMINING the body and ~~personal inquiry into~~
13 INVESTIGATING the cause and manner of the death ~~the~~ COUNTY
14 medical examiner considers a further examination necessary, ~~the~~
15 ~~county medical examiner or a~~ HE OR SHE OR HIS OR HER deputy may
16 cause the dead body to be removed to the public morgue. If the
17 investigation is SOLELY for the reason ~~only~~ that the dead
18 person had no medical attendance during 48 hours before the hour
19 of death, and if the dead person had chosen not to have medical
20 attendance because of his or her bona fide held religious convic-
21 tions, removal ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ required unless there is evi-
22 dence of other conditions ~~stipulated~~ DESCRIBED in section 3.
23 If there is no public morgue, ~~then~~ the body may be removed to a
24 private morgue ~~as~~ DESIGNATED BY the county medical examiner.
25 ~~has designated.~~

26 (2) The COUNTY medical examiner may designate a person
27 appointed pursuant to section 1a(2) to take charge of the body,

1 make pertinent inquiry, note the circumstances surrounding the
2 death, and, if considered necessary, cause the body to be trans-
3 ported to the morgue for examination by the COUNTY medical
4 examiner. The COUNTY medical examiner shall maintain a list of
5 persons appointed pursuant to section 1a(2) and their qualifica-
6 tions which shall be filed with the local law enforcement
7 agencies. The person appointed pursuant to section 1a(2) shall
8 not be an agent or employee of ~~any~~ A person or funeral estab-
9 lishment licensed under ~~Act No. 268 of the Public Acts of 1949,~~
10 ~~as amended, being sections 338.861 to 338.875~~ THE OCCUPATIONAL
11 CODE, ACT NO. 299 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1980, BEING
12 SECTIONS 339.101 TO 339.2721 of the Michigan Compiled Laws,
13 receive, directly or indirectly, ~~any~~ remuneration in connection
14 with the disposition of the body or make any funeral or burial
15 arrangements without approval of the next of kin, if ~~they are~~
16 ~~found~~ KNOWN, or the person responsible for the funeral
17 expenses.

18 (3) The county medical examiner OR HIS OR HER DESIGNEE SHALL
19 PERFORM AN AUTOPSY UPON THE BODY OF A PERSON WHO DIED AT THE
20 SCENE OF A FIRE. THE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER may perform or
21 direct to be performed ~~an autopsy and~~ ANY OTHER AUTOPSY. A
22 PERSON PERFORMING AN AUTOPSY UNDER THIS ACT shall carefully
23 reduce or cause to be reduced to writing every fact and circum-
24 stance tending to show the condition of the body and the cause
25 and manner of death, ~~together with~~ AND INCLUDE IN THAT WRITING
26 the names and addresses of ~~any~~ ALL persons present at the
27 autopsy. ~~which record he or she shall subscribe.~~ THE PERSON

1 PERFORMING THE AUTOPSY SHALL SUBSCRIBE THE WRITING DESCRIBED IN
2 THIS SUBSECTION.

3 (4) ~~The~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (5), THE COUNTY
4 medical examiner shall ascertain the identity of the deceased and
5 ~~notify~~ immediately AND as compassionately as possible NOTIFY
6 the next of kin of the DECEDENT'S death and the location of the
7 body. ~~except that such~~

8 (5) THE notification DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4) is not
9 required if a person from the state police or a county sheriff
10 department or a township police department or a municipal police
11 department states to the COUNTY medical examiner that the notifi-
12 cation has already occurred. The county medical examiner may
13 conduct an autopsy if he or she determines that an autopsy rea-
14 sonably appears to be required pursuant to law. After the county
15 medical examiner or a deputy or a person from the state police or
16 a county sheriff department or a township police department or a
17 municipal police department has made diligent effort to locate
18 and notify the next of kin, ~~he or she~~ THE COUNTY MEDICAL
19 EXAMINER may order and conduct the autopsy with or without the
20 consent of the next of kin of the deceased.

21 (6) ~~(5)~~ The county medical examiner or ~~a~~ HIS OR HER
22 deputy shall keep a written record of the efforts to locate and
23 notify the next of kin for a period of 1 year from the date of
24 the autopsy. ~~The county medical examiner shall, after any~~
25 AFTER A required examination or autopsy, THE COUNTY MEDICAL
26 EXAMINER SHALL promptly deliver or return the body to relatives
27 or representatives of the deceased. ~~or, if~~ IF there are no

1 relatives or representatives OF THE DECEASED known to the COUNTY
2 MEDICAL examiner, he or she may cause the body to be ~~decently~~
3 buried ~~, except that the medical examiner~~ PURSUANT TO LAW, BUT
4 may retain, as long as ~~may be~~ HE OR SHE DETERMINES necessary,
5 ~~any~~ A portion of the body believed by the COUNTY medical
6 examiner to be necessary for the detection of ~~any~~ A crime.