

HOUSE BILL No. 1031

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 35-52-36-13.3; IC 36-2-14.

Synopsis: County coroners. Removes minimum hour of instruction requirements for certain training courses provided by the coroners training board, and provides that a coroner or deputy coroner who has not successfully completed that training may not conduct a death investigation or sign a death certificate. Provides that a coroner or deputy coroner who conducts a death investigation or signs a death certificate without completing certain training commits a Class B misdemeanor. Provides that, if a coroner or deputy coroner fails to complete the required training course within the time required, the county shall reimburse the coroners training board for the cost of the training. Provides that the county may recover from an individual the amount the county reimbursed the coroners training board.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

Engleman

December 1, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local Government.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1031

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 35-52-36-13.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 13.3. IC 36-2-14-23 defines a**
4 **crime concerning coroners and deputy coroners.**
5 SECTION 2. IC 36-2-14-22.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.3-2008,
6 SECTION 258, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
7 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22.3. (a) The coroners training
8 board established by IC 4-23-6.5-3, in consultation with the Indiana
9 law enforcement academy, shall create and offer a training course for
10 coroners and deputy coroners. The training course must include
11 **instruction regarding:**
12 ~~(1) at least forty (40) hours of instruction; and~~
13 ~~(2) instruction regarding:~~
14 ~~(A) (1) death investigation;~~
15 ~~(B) (2) crime scenes; and~~
16 ~~(C) (3) preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and~~
17 ~~crime lab technicians.~~



(b) The coroners training board, in consultation with the Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer an annual training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The annual training course must **cover recent developments in:**

~~(1)~~ include at least eight ~~(8)~~ hours of instruction; and

~~(2)~~ cover recent developments in:

~~(A)~~ (1) death investigation;

~~(B)~~ (2) crime scenes; and

~~(C)~~ (3) preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and crime lab technicians.

(c) In creating the courses under subsections (a) and (b), the coroners training board shall consult with a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology regarding medical issues that are a part of the training courses.

(d) All training in the courses offered under subsections (a) and (b) that involves medical issues must be approved by a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology.

(e) All training in the courses offered under subsections (a) and (b) that involves crime scenes and evidence preservation must be approved by a law enforcement officer.

(f) The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or deputy coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses described in subsections (a) and (b).

SECTION 3. IC 36-2-14-23, AS AMENDED BY P.L.3-2008, SECTION 260, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 23. (a) Each coroner shall successfully complete the training course offered under section 22.3(a) of this chapter within six (6) months after taking office.

(b) Each deputy coroner shall successfully complete the training course offered under section 22.3(a) of this chapter within one (1) year after beginning employment with a coroner's office.

(c) Each coroner and each deputy coroner shall successfully complete the annual training course offered under section 22.3(b) of this chapter each year after the year in which the coroner or deputy coroner received the training required by section 22.3(a) of this chapter.

(d) After a coroner or deputy coroner has:

(1) successfully completed the training course as required under subsection (a) or (b); and

(2) successfully completed the annual training course as required under subsection (c);

the coroner or deputy coroner shall present a certificate or other



evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required under subsection (a), (b), or (c).

(e) If a coroner or deputy coroner does not present a certificate or other evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the county executive or city-county council shall order the auditor to withhold the paycheck of the coroner or deputy coroner until the coroner or deputy coroner satisfies the respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c), unless the county executive or city-county council adopts a resolution finding that:

(1) the failure of the coroner or deputy coroner to complete the respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c) is the result of unusual circumstances;

(2) the coroner or deputy coroner is making reasonable progress, under the circumstances, toward completing the respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c); and

(3) in light of the unusual circumstances described in subdivision (1), withholding the paycheck of the coroner or deputy coroner would be unjust.

(f) If the county executive or city-county council orders an auditor to withhold a paycheck under subsection (e) and a coroner or deputy coroner later presents a certificate or other evidence to the county executive or city-county council that the coroner or deputy coroner has successfully completed training required under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the county executive or city-county council shall order the auditor to release all of the coroner's or deputy coroner's paychecks that were withheld from the coroner or deputy coroner.

(g) A coroner or deputy coroner who has not successfully completed the training required under subsection (a) or (b) may not conduct a death investigation or sign a death certificate. A coroner or deputy coroner who violates this subsection commits a Class B misdemeanor.

(h) If a coroner or deputy coroner begins a training course required under subsection (a) or (b) but fails to complete the course within the time required by this section, the county shall reimburse the coroners training board for the cost of the training. The county may recover from the individual the amount the county reimbursed the coroners training board under this subsection.

