

# PROPOSED AMENDMENT

## HB 1031 # 2

### DIGEST

County coroners. Makes changes to the blood or tissue retention protocols at a hospital for purposes of conducting a death investigation. Makes changes to the training course requirements for coroners and deputy coroners. Makes technical corrections.

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1       Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new  
2 paragraph and insert:

3       "SECTION 1. IC 4-23-6.5-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.3-2008,  
4 SECTION 10, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
5 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. The board shall consult with the Indiana law  
6 enforcement academy under IC 36-2-14-22.3 concerning criminal  
7 investigations in the creation of:

8       (1) the training course for coroners and deputy coroners under  
9 IC 36-2-14-22.3(a); and

10       (2) the annual training course for coroners and deputy coroners  
11 under ~~IC 36-2-14-22.3(b)~~. **IC 36-2-14-22.3(c)**".

12       Page 1, delete lines 5 through 17, begin a new paragraph and insert:

13       "SECTION 2. IC 36-2-14-22.1, AS AMENDED BY THE  
14 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
16 JANUARY 1, 2026 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 22.1. (a) As used in this  
17 section, "hospital" refers to a hospital that is licensed under IC 16-21-2.

18       (b) Upon the request of a coroner who is conducting or will conduct  
19 a death investigation on an individual who is admitted or was admitted  
20 to a hospital, the hospital shall provide a sample of the individual's  
21 blood or tissue to the coroner.

22       (c) A hospital shall have a blood retention protocol for the  
23 preservation of the first sample of blood drawn for an individual  
24 seeking ~~treatment~~ of emergency care services at an emergency  
25 department of the hospital ~~regardless of whether the individual is~~

ultimately admitted to the hospital: who is:

- (1) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent, accidental, or from an overdose;
- (2) determined by a provider to be critically injured or mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency care services at the emergency department; and
- (3) admitted as an inpatient to the hospital.

The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any case where a first sample of blood cannot be drawn in the best interest of the clinical care of the patient or the first sample of blood is adulterated.

(d) The protocol under subsection (c) shall include a plan for:

- (1) when a patient is transferred to another hospital; and
- (2) notifying the laboratory for a requisition or order for whole blood sample analysis for the patient identified under subsection (c). to indicate when a patient is:

(A) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent, accidental, or from an overdose; and

(B) determined by a provider to be critically injured or mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency care services at the emergency department.

(d) (e) A laboratory that receives an order for whole blood sample analysis and the notification under subsection (c)(2) (d)(2) shall do the following:

(1) The laboratory shall hold the blood sample in storage until the earlier of the following:

(A) The expiration of the twenty-one (21) day period beginning on the date that the sample of the patient's blood is drawn.

(B) The date of the patient's discharge from the hospital. For purposes of this clause, the transfer of the patient to another hospital does not constitute a discharge.

(C) The date of the patient's death.

(2) This subdivision applies if:

(A) the patient is transferred to another hospital; and

(B) at the time of the transfer, the transferring hospital laboratory is still holding the first blood sample in storage in accordance with subdivision (1)(A).

The transferring hospital laboratory shall hold the first blood sample in storage in accordance with subdivision (1)(A), unless

the transferring hospital laboratory receives information from the receiving hospital that the patient has been discharged from the receiving hospital or has died.

The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any case where the sample is tested and cannot be retained for reasons of medical necessity in the clinical care of the patient.

~~(e)~~ **(f)** A coroner does not need to obtain a warrant to request a blood or tissue sample under this section.

SECTION 3. IC 36-2-14-22.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.3-2008, SECTION 258, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22.3. (a) The coroners training board established by IC 4-23-6.5-3, in consultation with the Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer a training course for coroners and deputy coroners. **The training course must include, at a minimum, forty (40) hours of instruction. The training course must require each coroner and deputy coroner to attend, complete, and successfully pass a certification program that consists of in-person classroom lectures and instruction, as well as a supervised externship.**

**(b)** The training course **described in subsection (a)** must include instruction regarding:

~~(1) at least forty (40) hours of instruction; and~~

~~(2) instruction regarding:~~

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

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

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

~~(b)~~ **(c)** 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 **include at a minimum eight (8) hours of instruction and 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)~~ **(d)** In creating the courses under **this section subsections (a) and** ~~(b)~~, the coroners training board shall consult with a pathologist

1 certified by the American Board of Pathology regarding medical issues  
 2 that are a part of the training courses.

3 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** All training in the courses offered under **this section**  
 4 ~~subsections (a) and (b)~~ that involves medical issues must be approved  
 5 by a pathologist certified by the American Board of Pathology.

6 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** All training in the courses offered under **this section**  
 7 ~~subsections (a) and (b)~~ that involves crime scenes and evidence  
 8 preservation must be approved by a law enforcement officer.

9 ~~(f)~~ **(g)** The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or deputy  
 10 coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses  
 11 described in ~~subsections (a) and (b)~~ **this section**."

12 Page 2, delete lines 1 through 23.

13 Page 2, line 33, strike "22.3(b)" and insert "**22.3(c)**".

14 Page 3, after line 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

15 "SECTION 5. **An emergency is declared for this act.**".

16 Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1031 as introduced.)