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# HOUSE BILL No. 1031

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM103101

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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.

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

6       (1) the training course for coroners and deputy coroners under  
7       IC 36-2-14-22.3(a); and  
8       (2) the annual training course for coroners and deputy coroners  
9       under IC 36-2-14-22.3(b). IC 36-2-14-22.3(c).

10     [ SECTION ↪[2]. IC 35-52-36-13.3 IS ADDED TO THE  
11     INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
12     [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 13.3. IC 36-2-14-23 defines a  
13     crime concerning coroners and deputy coroners.

14     SECTION ↪[3. IC 36-2-14-22.1, AS AMENDED BY THE  
15     TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL  
16     ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
17     JANUARY 1, 2026 (RETROACTIVE): Sec. 22.1. (a) As used in this  
18     section, "hospital" refers to a hospital that is licensed under IC 16-21-2.

19       (b) Upon the request of a coroner who is conducting or will

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1       conduct a death investigation on an individual who is admitted or was  
 2       admitted to a hospital, the hospital shall provide a sample of the  
 3       individual's blood or tissue to the coroner.

4       (c) A hospital shall have a blood retention protocol for the  
 5       preservation of the first sample of blood drawn for an individual  
 6       seeking treatment of emergency care services at an emergency  
 7       department of the hospital regardless of whether the individual is  
 8       ultimately admitted to the hospital: who is:

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

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

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

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

- 23      (A) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent,  
 24      accidental, or from an overdose; and
- 25      (B) determined by a provider to be critically injured or  
 26      mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency  
 27      care services at the emergency department.

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

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

- 33      (A) The expiration of the twenty-one (21) day period  
 34      beginning on the date that the sample of the patient's blood  
 35      is drawn.
- 36      (B) The date of the patient's discharge from the hospital. For  
 37      purposes of this clause, the transfer of the patient to another  
 38      hospital does not constitute a discharge.
- 39      (C) The date of the patient's death.

40      (2) This subdivision applies if:

- 41      (A) the patient is transferred to another hospital; and
- 42      (B) at the time of the transfer, the transferring hospital



1                   laboratory is still holding the first blood sample in storage  
 2                   in accordance with subdivision (1)(A).

3                   The transferring hospital laboratory shall hold the first blood  
 4                   sample in storage in accordance with subdivision (1)(A), unless  
 5                   the transferring hospital laboratory receives information from the  
 6                   receiving hospital that the patient has been discharged from the  
 7                   receiving hospital or has died.

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

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

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

25                   (b) The training course described in subsection (a) must include]  
 26                   instruction regarding:

27                   (1) at least forty (40) hours of instruction; and  
 28                   (2) instruction regarding:

29                   (A) (1) **L**  
 30                   death investigation;

31                   (B) **L**  
 32                   (2) **L**  
 33                   crime scenes; and

34                   (C) **L**  
 35                   preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and  
 36                   crime lab technicians.

37                   [**L**(b) **L** **L**(c)] The coroners training board, in consultation with the  
 38                   Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer an annual  
 39                   training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The annual training  
 40                   course must **include at a minimum eight (8) hours of instruction**  
 41                   **and**  
 42                   **cover recent developments in:**

37                   (1) include at least eight (8) hours of instruction; and  
 38                   (2) cover recent developments in:

39                   (A) (1) death investigation;

40                   (B) (2) **L**  
 41                   crime scenes; and

42                   (C) **L**  
 43                   preservation of evidence at a crime scene for police and  
 44                   crime lab technicians.



1        ~~1(e) (d)~~ In creating the courses under this section  
 2 ~~1~~ ~~subsections 1(a) and 1(b),~~ the coroners training board shall  
 3 consult with a pathologist certified by the American Board of  
 4 Pathology regarding medical issues that are a part of the training  
 5 courses.

6        ~~1(d) (e)~~ All training in the courses offered under this section  
 7 ~~1~~ ~~subsections 1(a) and 1(b)~~ that involves medical issues must  
 8 be approved by a pathologist certified by the American Board of  
 9 Pathology.

10        ~~1(e) (f)~~ All training in the courses offered under this section  
 11 ~~1~~ ~~subsections 1(a) and 1(b)~~ that involves crime scenes and  
 12 evidence preservation must be approved by a law enforcement officer.

13        ~~1(f) (g)~~ The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or  
 14 deputy coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses  
 15 described in ~~1~~ ~~subsections 1(a) and 1(b).~~ this section.

16        SECTION ~~22.3(c)~~ ~~15~~. IC 36-2-14-23, AS AMENDED BY  
 17 P.L.3-2008, SECTION 260, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 18 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 23. (a) Each coroner shall  
 19 successfully complete the training course offered under section 22.3(a)  
 20 of this chapter within six (6) months after taking office.

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

24        (c) Each coroner and each deputy coroner shall successfully  
 25 complete the annual training course offered under section ~~1~~ ~~22.3(b)~~  
 26 ~~22.3(c)~~ of this chapter each year after the year in which the coroner or  
 27 deputy coroner received the training required by section 22.3(a) of this  
 28 chapter.

29        (d) After a coroner or deputy coroner has:

30        (1) successfully completed the training course as required under  
 31 subsection (a) or (b); and  
 32        (2) successfully completed the annual training course as required  
 33 under subsection (c);

34        the coroner or deputy coroner shall present a certificate or other  
 35 evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that  
 36 contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner  
 37 or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required  
 38 under subsection (a), (b), or (c).

39        (e) If a coroner or deputy coroner does not present a certificate or  
 40 other evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that  
 41 contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner  
 42 or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required



1 under subsection (a), (b), or (c), the county executive or city-county  
 2 council shall order the auditor to withhold the paycheck of the coroner  
 3 or deputy coroner until the coroner or deputy coroner satisfies the  
 4 respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c),  
 5 unless the county executive or city-county council adopts a resolution  
 6 finding that:

7       (1) the failure of the coroner or deputy coroner to complete the  
 8       respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and  
 9       (c) is the result of unusual circumstances;  
 10      (2) the coroner or deputy coroner is making reasonable progress,  
 11       under the circumstances, toward completing the respective  
 12       training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c); and  
 13      (3) in light of the unusual circumstances described in  
 14       subdivision (1), withholding the paycheck of the coroner or  
 15       deputy coroner would be unjust.  
 16      (f) If the county executive or city-county council orders an auditor  
 17       to withhold a paycheck under subsection (e) and a coroner or deputy  
 18       coroner later presents a certificate or other evidence to the county  
 19       executive or city-county council that the coroner or deputy coroner has  
 20       successfully completed training required under subsection (a), (b), or  
 21       (c), the county executive or city-county council shall order the auditor  
 22       to release all of the coroner's or deputy coroner's paychecks that were  
 23       withheld from the coroner or deputy coroner.

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

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

35       [SECTION 6. An emergency is declared for this act.](#)

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