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HOUSE BILL No. 1031

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM103102

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~~ [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~~ [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;

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; and

14 (3) admitted as an inpatient to the hospital.

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

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

20 (1) when a patient is transferred to another hospital; and

21 (2) notifying the laboratory for a requisition or order for whole
 22 blood sample analysis for the patient identified under
 23 subsection (c). to indicate when a patient is:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (2) This subdivision applies if:

42 (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 4. 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.

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

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

~~[(f)]~~ ~~[(g)]~~ 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)]~~: [this section.]

SECTION ~~↔~~ [5]. 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)]~~ 22.3(c)] 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.

SECTION 6. An emergency is declared for this act.

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