
HOUSE BILL No. 1031

AM103104 has been incorporated into January 6, 2026 printing.

Synopsis: County coroners.

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January 6, 2026

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.

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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 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 INDIANA
11 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 36-2-14-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.186-2025,
15 SECTION 254, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
16 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. (a) Whenever the coroner is
17 notified that a person in the county:

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- 1 (1) has died from violence;
- 2 (2) has died by casualty;
- 3 (3) has died when apparently in good health;
- 4 (4) has died in an apparently suspicious, unusual, or unnatural
- 5 manner; or
- 6 (5) has been found dead;

7 the coroner shall, before the scene of the death is disturbed, notify a
 8 law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in that area. ~~The agency~~
 9 ~~shall assist the coroner in determining the cause, manner, and~~
 10 ~~mechanism of death. The coroner shall hold the human remains until~~
 11 ~~the investigation of how the person died and the medical investigation~~
 12 ~~of the cause of death are concluded.~~

13 **(b) The law enforcement agency having jurisdiction shall, in**
 14 **cooperation with the coroner, secure, control, and process the**
 15 **scene of the death. The agency shall conduct the criminal**
 16 **investigation into the death, including but not limited to evidence**
 17 **collection, witness interviews, suspect identification, and case**
 18 **preparation.**

19 **(c) The coroner has exclusive custody of the body and any**
 20 **property on the body not secured as evidence. The coroner shall**
 21 **coordinate the examination and removal of the body with the law**
 22 **enforcement agency to ensure preservation of evidence and the**
 23 **integrity of the scene.**

24 **(d) The coroner and the law enforcement agency shall**
 25 **cooperate fully, share information, and conduct their respective**
 26 **duties as part of a single coordinated death investigation.**

27 ~~(b)~~ **(e) If the coroner reasonably suspects the cause of the person's**
 28 **death to be accidental or intentional overdose of a controlled substance**
 29 **(as defined by IC 35-48-1.1-7), the coroner shall do the following:**

- 30 (1) Obtain any relevant information about the decedent
- 31 maintained by the INSPECT program established by
- 32 IC 25-1-13-4.
- 33 (2) Extract one (1) or more of the following bodily fluids from
- 34 the decedent:
- 35 (A) Blood.
- 36 (B) Vitreous.
- 37 (C) Urine.
- 38 (3) Test a bodily fluid extracted under subdivision (2) to
- 39 determine whether the bodily fluid contained any amount,
- 40 including a trace amount, of a controlled substance at the time of
- 41 the decedent's death.
- 42 (4) If the coroner reasonably suspects the cause of the person's

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1 death to be accidental or intentional overdose of an opioid (as
 2 defined in IC 35-48-1.1-31) or if the person was administered an
 3 overdose intervention drug (as defined in IC 16-18-2-263.9)
 4 prior to death and was unresponsive to the overdose intervention
 5 drug, the coroner shall test a bodily fluid extracted under
 6 subdivision (2) to determine whether the bodily fluid contained
 7 any amount, including a trace amount, of xylazine at the time of
 8 the decedent's death.
 9 (5) Report the results of the test conducted under this subsection
 10 to the Indiana department of health after completing the medical
 11 investigation of the cause of the decedent's death.
 12 (6) Provide the Indiana department of health notice of the
 13 decedent's death, including any information related to the
 14 controlled substances involved, if any.
 15 ~~(e)~~ (f) The coroner:
 16 (1) shall file a certificate of death with the county health
 17 department, or, if applicable, a multiple county health
 18 department, of the county in which the individual died, within
 19 seventy-two (72) hours after the completion of the death
 20 investigation;
 21 (2) shall complete the certificate of death utilizing all verifiable
 22 information establishing the time and date of death; and
 23 (3) may file a pending investigation certificate of death before
 24 completing the certificate of death, if necessary.
 25 ~~(d)~~ (g) If this section applies, the body and the scene of death may
 26 not be disturbed until:
 27 (1) the coroner has photographed them in the manner that most
 28 fully discloses how the person died; and
 29 (2) law enforcement and the coroner have finished their initial
 30 assessment of the scene of death.
 31 However, a coroner or law enforcement officer may order a body to be
 32 moved before photographs are taken if the position or location of the
 33 body unduly interferes with activities carried on where the body is
 34 found, but the body may not be moved from the immediate area and
 35 must be moved without substantially destroying or altering the
 36 evidence present.
 37 ~~(e)~~ (h) When acting under this section, if the coroner considers it
 38 necessary to have an autopsy performed, is required to perform an
 39 autopsy under subsection ~~(g)~~; (j), or is requested by the prosecuting
 40 attorney of the county to perform an autopsy, the coroner shall arrange
 41 for the autopsy to be performed by a:

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- 1 (1) physician who:
 2 (A) is certified by the American Board of Pathology; or
 3 (B) holds a subspecialty board certification in forensic
 4 pathology from the American Osteopathic Board of
 5 Pathology and the American Osteopathic Association; or
 6 (2) pathology resident acting under the direct supervision of a
 7 physician described in subdivision (1).
- 8 A physician employed under subdivision (1) to perform the autopsy
 9 shall be paid a fee of at least fifty dollars (\$50) from the county
 10 treasury.
- 11 ~~(f)~~ (i) If:
 12 (1) at the request of:
 13 (A) the decedent's spouse;
 14 (B) a child of the decedent, if the decedent does not have a
 15 spouse;
 16 (C) a parent of the decedent, if the decedent does not have
 17 a spouse or children;
 18 (D) a brother or sister of the decedent, if the decedent does
 19 not have a spouse, children, or parents; or
 20 (E) a grandparent of the decedent, if the decedent does not
 21 have a spouse, children, parents, brothers, or sisters;
 22 (2) in any death, two (2) or more witnesses who corroborate the
 23 circumstances surrounding death are present; and
 24 (3) two (2) physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in
 25 the state and who have made separate examinations of the
 26 decedent certify the same cause of death in an affidavit within
 27 twenty-four (24) hours after death;
 28 an autopsy need not be performed. The affidavits shall be filed with the
 29 circuit court clerk.
- 30 ~~(g)~~ (j) A county coroner may not certify the cause of death in the
 31 case of the sudden and unexpected death of a child who is less than
 32 three (3) years old unless an autopsy is performed at county expense.
 33 However, a coroner may certify the cause of death of a child described
 34 in this subsection without the performance of an autopsy if subsection
 35 ~~(f)~~ (i) applies to the death of the child.
- 36 ~~(h)~~ (k) After consultation with the law enforcement agency
 37 investigating the death of a decedent, the coroner shall do the
 38 following:
 39 (1) Inform a crematory authority if a person is barred under
 40 IC 23-14-31-26(c) from serving as the authorizing agent with
 41 respect to the cremation of the decedent's body because the

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1 coroner made the determination under IC 23-14-31-26(c)(2) in
2 connection with the death of the decedent.

3 (2) Inform a cemetery owner if a person is barred under
4 IC 23-14-55-2(c) from authorizing the disposition of the body or
5 cremated remains of the decedent because the coroner made the
6 determination under IC 23-14-55-2(c)(2) in connection with the
7 death of the decedent.

8 (3) Inform a seller of prepaid services or merchandise if a
9 person's contract is unenforceable under IC 30-2-13-23(b)
10 because the coroner made the determination under
11 IC 30-2-13-23(b)(4) in connection with the death of the
12 decedent.

13 SECTION 4. IC 36-2-14-7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
14 SECTION 95, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 7. (a) ~~At an investigation under this chapter, the~~
16 ~~coroner shall examine persons wanting to testify and may examine~~
17 ~~persons the coroner has summoned by the coroner's subpoena.~~
18 ~~Witnesses shall answer under oath all questions concerning the death~~
19 ~~under investigation.~~

20 (b) If a physician is required to attend an investigation and make
21 a post mortem examination, the coroner shall certify this service to the
22 county executive, which shall order payment for the physician from the
23 county treasury.

24 SECTION 5. IC 36-2-14-8 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
25 2026]. Sec. 8: ~~A witness testifying before a county coroner is entitled~~
26 ~~to the same fees as a witness testifying in the circuit court for the~~
27 ~~county.~~

28 SECTION 6. IC 36-2-14-9 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
29 2026]. Sec. 9: ~~The testimony of each witness at a coroner's~~
30 ~~investigation shall be reduced to writing and signed by the witness. The~~
31 ~~coroner shall, by recognizance in a reasonable sum, bind any witness~~
32 ~~whose testimony relates to the trial of a person concerned in the death~~
33 ~~to give evidence in court and shall send the written evidence and~~
34 ~~recognizance of the witness to the court. The coroner shall commit to~~
35 ~~the county jail a witness who refuses to enter into the recognizance~~
36 ~~required by this section.~~

37 SECTION 7. IC 36-2-14-10, AS AMENDED BY P.L.127-2017,
38 SECTION 97, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 10. (a) ~~After viewing the body, hearing the~~
40 ~~considering all the evidence relating to the death, and making all~~
41 ~~necessary inquiries, the coroner shall determine the cause, manner,~~

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1 **and mechanism of death and** draw up and sign the coroner's verdict
 2 on the death under consideration. The coroner shall also make a written
 3 report giving an accurate description of the deceased person, the
 4 deceased person's name if it can be determined, and the amount of
 5 money and other property found with the body. The verdict and the
 6 written report are subject to inspection and copying under IC 5-14-3-3.

7 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), and (e), a
 8 photograph, video recording, or audio recording of an autopsy in the
 9 custody of a medical examiner is declared confidential for purposes of
 10 IC 5-14-3-4(a)(1).

11 (c) A surviving spouse may:

12 (1) view and copy a photograph or video recording; and

13 (2) listen to and copy an audio recording;

14 of the deceased spouse's autopsy. If there is no surviving spouse, the
 15 surviving parents shall have access to the records under this section. If
 16 there is no surviving spouse or parent, an adult child shall have access
 17 to the records.

18 (d) Upon making a written request, a unit (as defined in
 19 IC 36-1-2-23), the state, an agency of the state, the federal government,
 20 or an agency of the federal government, while in performance of their
 21 official duty, may:

22 (1) view and copy a photograph or video recording; and

23 (2) listen to and copy an audio recording;

24 of an autopsy. Unless otherwise required in the performance of official
 25 duties, the identity of the deceased must remain confidential.

26 (e) The coroner or the coroner's designee having custody of a
 27 photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of an autopsy may
 28 use or allow the use of the photograph, video recording, or audio
 29 recording of the autopsy for case consultation with a pathologist or
 30 forensic scientist. The coroner or the coroner's designee having custody
 31 of a photograph, a video recording, or an audio recording of an autopsy
 32 may also use or allow the use of the photograph, video recording, or
 33 audio recording for training or educational purposes (as defined in
 34 IC 16-39-7.1-1.5) if all information that identifies the individual on
 35 whom the autopsy was performed is masked or removed from the
 36 photograph, video recording, or audio recording. For purposes of this
 37 subsection, information that identifies an individual consists of:

38 (1) the name;

39 (2) the address;

40 (3) the Social Security number;

41 (4) a full view of the face; or

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- 1 (5) identifying marks on the body that are unrelated to the
 2 medical condition or medical status;
 3 of the deceased individual. A coroner or coroner's designee who allows
 4 the use of autopsy information under this subsection has a duty to
 5 disclose to each person to whom the coroner or coroner's designee
 6 releases it that the information is confidential and may not be used for
 7 a purpose other than the purpose for which it was originally released.
 8 Information disclosed under this subsection is confidential. A coroner
 9 or coroner's designee who fails to disclose the confidentiality
 10 restrictions of this information commits a Class A misdemeanor.
- 11 (f) Except as provided in subsection (e), the coroner or the
 12 coroner's designee having custody of a photograph, a video, or an audio
 13 recording of an autopsy may not permit a person to:
 14 (1) view or copy the photograph or video recording; and
 15 (2) listen to or copy the audio recording;
 16 of an autopsy without a court order.
- 17 (g) A court, upon a showing of good cause, may issue an order
 18 authorizing a person to:
 19 (1) view or copy a photograph or video recording; and
 20 (2) listen to or copy an audio recording;
 21 of an autopsy, and may prescribe any restrictions or stipulations that the
 22 court considers appropriate.
- 23 (h) In determining good cause under subsection (g), the court shall
 24 consider:
 25 (1) whether the disclosure is necessary for the public evaluation
 26 of governmental performance;
 27 (2) the seriousness of the intrusion into the family's right to
 28 privacy;
 29 (3) whether the disclosure of the photograph, video recording, or
 30 audio recording is by the least intrusive means available; and
 31 (4) the availability of similar information in other public records,
 32 regardless of form.
- 33 (i) In all cases, the viewing, copying, listening to, or other handling
 34 of a photograph, video recording, or audio recording of an autopsy
 35 must be under the direct supervision of the coroner, or the coroner's
 36 designee, who is the custodian of the record.
- 37 (j) A surviving spouse shall be given:
 38 (1) reasonable notice of the petition filed with the court to view
 39 or copy a photograph or video recording of an autopsy or a
 40 petition to listen to or copy an audio recording;
 41 (2) a copy of the petition filed with the court to view or copy a

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1 photograph or video recording of an autopsy or a petition to
 2 listen to or copy an audio recording; and
 3 (3) reasonable notice of the opportunity to be present and heard
 4 at any hearing on the matter.
 5 (k) If there is no surviving spouse, the notice under subsection (j)
 6 must be given to the deceased's parents, and if the deceased has no
 7 living parent, the notice must be given to the adult children of the
 8 deceased.
 9 (l) A coroner or coroner's designee who:
 10 (1) is the custodian of a photograph, a video recording, or an
 11 audio recording of an autopsy; and
 12 (2) knowingly or intentionally violates this section;
 13 commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 14 (m) A person who knowingly or intentionally violates a court order
 15 issued under this section commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 16 (n) A person who:
 17 (1) receives autopsy information under subsection (e); and
 18 (2) knowingly or intentionally uses the information in a manner
 19 other than the specified purpose for which it was released;
 20 commits a Class A misdemeanor.
 21 SECTION 8. IC 36-2-14-19, AS AMENDED BY P.L.193-2018,
 22 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 23 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 19. (a) As used in this section, "cornea" includes
 24 corneal tissue.
 25 (b) As used in this section, "decedent" means a person described
 26 in section 6(a)(1) through 6(a)(5) of this chapter.
 27 (c) As used in this section, "eye bank" means a nonprofit
 28 corporation:
 29 (1) organized under Indiana law;
 30 (2) exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501 of
 31 the Internal Revenue Code; and
 32 (3) whose purposes include obtaining, storing, and distributing
 33 corneas that are to be used for corneal transplants or for other
 34 medical or medical research purposes.
 35 (d) If under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter the coroner
 36 requires an autopsy to be performed upon a decedent, the coroner may
 37 authorize the removal of one (1) or both of the decedent's corneas for
 38 donation to an eye bank for transplantation, if the following conditions
 39 exist:
 40 (1) The decedent's corneas are not necessary for successful
 41 completion of the autopsy.

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- 1 (2) The decedent's corneas are not necessary for use as evidence.
 2 (3) Removal of the decedent's corneas will not alter the
 3 postmortem facial appearance of the decedent.
 4 (4) A representative of the eye bank, authorized by the trustees
 5 of the eye bank to make requests for corneas, has done the
 6 following:
 7 (A) Within six (6) hours after the time of death, made a
 8 reasonable attempt to:
 9 (i) contact any of the persons listed in the order of
 10 priority specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8; and
 11 (ii) inform the person of the effect of the removal of
 12 the decedent's corneas on the physical appearance of
 13 the decedent.
 14 (B) Submitted to the coroner:
 15 (i) a written request for the donation by the coroner of
 16 corneas of the decedent subject to autopsy under
 17 ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter; and
 18 (ii) a written certification that corneas donated under
 19 this section are intended to be used only for cornea
 20 transplant.
 21 (5) The removal of the corneas and their donation to the eye
 22 bank will not alter a gift made by:
 23 (A) the decedent when alive; or
 24 (B) any of the persons listed in the order of priority
 25 specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8;
 26 to an agency or organization other than the eye bank making the
 27 request for the donation.
 28 (6) The coroner, at the time the removal and donation of a
 29 decedent's corneas is authorized, does not know of any objection
 30 to the removal and donation of the decedent's corneas made by:
 31 (A) the decedent, as evidenced in a written document
 32 executed by the decedent when alive; or
 33 (B) any of the persons listed in the order of priority
 34 specified in IC 29-2-16.1-8.
 35 (e) A person, including a coroner and an eye bank and the eye
 36 bank's representatives, who exercises reasonable care in complying
 37 with subsection (d)(6) is immune from civil liability arising from
 38 cornea removal and donation allowed under this section.
 39 (f) A person who authorizes the donation of a decedent's corneas
 40 may not be charged for the costs related to the donation. The recipient
 41 of the donation is responsible for the costs related to the donation.

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1 SECTION 9. IC 36-2-14-20, AS AMENDED BY P.L.225-2025,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 20. (a) This section applies only to the autopsy of
4 a person whose death is:

- 5 (1) natural;
- 6 (2) suspicious;
- 7 (3) violent;
- 8 (4) accidental; or
- 9 (5) from an overdose.

10 (b) As used in this section, "autopsy" means the external and
11 surgical internal examination of all body systems of a decedent,
12 including toxicology and histology.

13 (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) and IC 4-24-4-1, if an
14 Indiana resident dies in an Indiana county as a result of an incident that
15 occurred in another Indiana county, the county coroner where the death
16 occurred shall contact the coroner of the county where the incident
17 occurred to discuss whether an autopsy is needed. The coroner where
18 the incident occurred must respond to the coroner where the death
19 occurred not more than twenty-four (24) hours after being contacted to
20 discuss the need for an autopsy. If, after discussion, the coroners:

- 21 (1) agree that an autopsy is needed:
 - 22 (A) the coroner of the county in which the incident occurred
 - 23 is responsible for the cost of the autopsy, including the
 - 24 physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter;
 - 25 and
 - 26 (B) the coroner of the county where the death occurred shall
 - 27 bill the county in which the incident occurred for the costs
 - 28 in clause (A) not later than one hundred eighty (180) days
 - 29 after the death occurred; or

30 (2) disagree that an autopsy is needed, the coroner of the county
31 that conducts the autopsy is responsible for the cost of the
32 autopsy, including the physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section**
33 **6** of this chapter except in the instance of a criminal case that
34 could result in criminal charges in which the county where the
35 incident occurred is responsible for the cost of the autopsy,
36 including the physician fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this
37 chapter.

38 (d) If the coroner where the incident occurred fails to respond to
39 the coroner where the death occurred not more than twenty-four (24)
40 hours after being contacted under subsection (c) to discuss whether an
41 autopsy is needed:

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- 1 (1) the coroner where the death occurred may perform an
- 2 autopsy, if the coroner believes that an autopsy is warranted;
- 3 (2) the coroner of the county in which the incident occurred is
- 4 responsible for the cost of the autopsy, including the physician
- 5 fee under ~~section 6(e)~~ **section 6** of this chapter; and
- 6 (3) the coroner of the county where the death occurred shall bill
- 7 the county in which the incident occurred for the costs in
- 8 subdivision (2) not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after
- 9 the death occurred.

10 (e) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) and IC 4-24-4-1,
 11 payment for the costs of an autopsy requested by a party other than the:

- 12 (1) prosecuting attorney; or
- 13 (2) county coroner;

14 of the county in which the individual died must be made by the party
 15 requesting the autopsy.

16 (f) This section does not preclude the coroner of a county in which
 17 a death occurs from attempting to recover autopsy costs from the
 18 jurisdiction outside Indiana where the incident that caused the death
 19 occurred.

20 SECTION 10. IC 36-2-14-22.1, AS AMENDED BY THE
 21 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL OF THE 2026 GENERAL
 22 ASSEMBLY, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 23 JANUARY 1, 2026 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 22.1. (a) As used in this
 24 section, "hospital" refers to a hospital that is licensed under IC 16-21-2.

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

29 (c) A hospital shall have a blood retention protocol for the
 30 preservation of the first sample of blood drawn for an individual
 31 seeking ~~treatment~~ of emergency care services at an emergency
 32 department of the hospital ~~regardless of whether the individual is~~
 33 ~~ultimately admitted to the hospital:~~ **who is:**

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

40 **The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any**
 41 **case where a first sample of blood cannot be drawn in the best**
 42 **interest of the clinical care of the patient or the first sample of**

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1 **blood is adulterated.**
 2 **(d)** The protocol **under subsection (c)** shall include a plan for:
 3 (1) when a patient is transferred to another hospital; and
 4 (2) notifying the laboratory for a requisition or order for whole
 5 blood sample analysis **for the patient identified under**
 6 **subsection (c).** to indicate when a patient is:
 7 (A) treated for an injury that is suspicious, violent,
 8 accidental, or from an overdose; and
 9 (B) determined by a provider to be critically injured or
 10 mortally wounded at the time the patient seeks emergency
 11 care services at the emergency department.
 12 ~~(d)~~ **(e)** A laboratory that receives an order for whole blood sample
 13 analysis and the notification under subsection ~~(c)(2)~~ **(d)(2)** shall do the
 14 following:
 15 (1) The laboratory shall hold the blood sample in storage until
 16 the earlier of the following:
 17 (A) The expiration of the twenty-one (21) day period
 18 beginning on the date that the sample of the patient's blood
 19 is drawn.
 20 (B) The date of the patient's discharge from the hospital. For
 21 purposes of this clause, the transfer of the patient to another
 22 hospital does not constitute a discharge.
 23 (C) The date of the patient's death.
 24 (2) This subdivision applies if:
 25 (A) the patient is transferred to another hospital; and
 26 (B) at the time of the transfer, the ~~transferring hospital~~
 27 **laboratory** is still holding the first blood sample in storage
 28 in accordance with subdivision (1)(A).
 29 The transferring hospital laboratory shall hold the first blood
 30 sample in storage in accordance with subdivision (1)(A), unless
 31 the transferring hospital laboratory receives information from the
 32 receiving hospital that the patient has been discharged from the
 33 receiving hospital or has died.
 34 The requirements set forth in this subsection may be waived in any
 35 case where the sample is tested and cannot be retained for reasons of
 36 medical necessity in the clinical care of the patient.
 37 ~~(e)~~ **(f)** A coroner does not need to obtain a warrant to request a
 38 blood or tissue sample under this section.
 39 SECTION 11. IC 36-2-14-22.3, AS ADDED BY P.L.3-2008,
 40 SECTION 258, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 41 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 22.3. (a) The coroners training

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1 board established by IC 4-23-6.5-3, in consultation with the Indiana
 2 law enforcement academy, shall create and offer a training course for
 3 coroners and deputy coroners. **The training course must include, at
 4 a minimum, forty (40) hours of instruction. The training course
 5 must require each coroner and deputy coroner to attend, complete,
 6 and successfully pass a certification program that consists of
 7 in-person classroom lectures and instruction, as well as a
 8 supervised externship.**

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

11 ~~(1)~~ **(1)** at least forty (40) hours of instruction; and

12 ~~(2)~~ **(2)** instruction regarding:

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

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

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

17 ~~(b)~~ **(c)** The coroners training board, in consultation with the
 18 Indiana law enforcement academy, shall create and offer an annual
 19 training course for coroners and deputy coroners. The annual training
 20 course must **include at a minimum eight (8) hours of instruction and
 21 cover recent developments in:**

22 ~~(1)~~ **(1)** include at least eight (8) hours of instruction; and

23 ~~(2)~~ **(2)** cover recent developments in:

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

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

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

28 ~~(c)~~ **(d)** In creating the courses under **this section subsections (a)
 29 and (b)**, the coroners training board shall consult with a pathologist
 30 certified by the American Board of Pathology regarding medical issues
 31 that are a part of the training courses.

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

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

38 ~~(f)~~ **(g)** The coroners training board shall issue a coroner or deputy
 39 coroner a certificate upon successful completion of the courses
 40 described in **subsections (a) and (b): this section.**

41 SECTION 12. IC 36-2-14-23, AS AMENDED BY P.L.3-2008,



HB 1031—LS 6321/DI 116

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

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

8 (c) Each coroner and each deputy coroner shall successfully
9 complete the annual training course offered under section ~~22.3(b)~~
10 **22.3(c)** of this chapter each year after the year in which the coroner or
11 deputy coroner received the training required by section 22.3(a) of this
12 chapter.

13 (d) After a coroner or deputy coroner has:
14 (1) successfully completed the training course as required under
15 subsection (a) or (b); and
16 (2) successfully completed the annual training course as required
17 under subsection (c);

18 the coroner or deputy coroner shall present a certificate or other
19 evidence to the county executive, or in the case of a county that
20 contains a consolidated city, the city-county council, that the coroner
21 or deputy coroner has successfully completed the training required
22 under subsection (a), (b), or (c).

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

33 (1) the failure of the coroner or deputy coroner to complete the
34 respective training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and
35 (c) is the result of unusual circumstances;
36 (2) the coroner or deputy coroner is making reasonable progress,
37 under the circumstances, toward completing the respective
38 training requirements under subsections (a), (b), and (c); and
39 (3) in light of the unusual circumstances described in
40 subdivision (1), withholding the paycheck of the coroner or
41 deputy coroner would be unjust.

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

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

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

20 SECTION 13. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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