

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **79th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1993**  
4 **By: Senator Bell**

# A Bill

**ACT 177 OF 1993**  
**SENATE BILL 254**

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE ANNOTATED 12-12-317 TO  
9 DELETE THE WORD AUTOPSY AND REPLACE IT WITH POSTMORTEM  
10 EXAMINATION(S); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

### Subtitle

12 **"TO DELETE THE WORD AUTOPSY AND REPLACE IT WITH**  
13 **POSTMORTEM EXAMINATIONS.**

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16 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

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18 **SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Annotated 12-12-317 is amended to read as follows:**

19 **"12-12-317. Death certificates.**

20 **(a) The certificate of death of any person whose death is investigated under the**  
21 **provisions of this subchapter shall be made by the Chief Medical Examiner or by his designee**  
22 **or by the coroner, whomever shall have conducted the investigation.**

23 **(b) However, where a post mortem examination has been performed, the certificate of death**  
24 **shall be made and signed by the Chief Medical Examiner or his associates or assistants,**  
25 **whomever shall have performed the post mortem examination."**

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27 **SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are**  
28 **amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision**  
29 **Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.**

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31 **SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or**  
32 **circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of**  
33 **the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end**  
34 **the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.**

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36 **SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.**

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**SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that legislation has been proposed for immediate enactment to provide that the State Crime Laboratory shall perform post mortem examinations instead of autopsies; that the present law amended by this act requires whomever performs an autopsy to sign the death certificate; and whereas this law should be changed to post mortem examinations instead of autopsies; and whereas the legislation changing the State Crime Laboratory's duties to make post mortem examinations in lieu of autopsies will go into effect effective as soon as enacted; it is necessary that this act also go into effect as soon as enacted. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.**

**APPROVED: 2/19/93**