

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

# A Bill

**SENATE BILL**

## 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

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

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

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

20 "12-12-317. Death certificates.

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

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

30 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
31 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
32 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

34 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
35 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect

1 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
2 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
3 act are declared to be severable.

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6 hereby repealed.

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8 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General  
9 Assembly that legislation has been proposed for immediate enactment to provide  
10 that the State Crime Laboratory shall perform post mortem examinations instead  
11 of autopsies; that the present law amended by this act requires whomever  
12 performs an autopsy to sign the death certificate; and whereas this law should  
13 be changed to post mortem examinations instead of autopsies; and whereas the  
14 legislation changing the State Crime Laboratory\_s duties to make post mortem  
15 examinations in lieu of autopsies will go into effect effective as soon as  
16 enacted; it is necessary that this act also go into effect as soon as enacted.

17 Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being  
18 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and  
19 safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and  
20 approval.

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