

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H2/27/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1568

5 By: Representative Childress
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING EXAMINATIONS,
10 INVESTIGATIONS, AND POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION; TO AMEND
11 THE LAW REQUIRING A POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION WHEN A
12 DEATH IS BY APPARENT DRUG, ALCOHOL, OR POISON
13 TOXICITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING
17 EXAMINATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND
18 POSTMORTEM EXAMINATIONS; AND TO AMEND
19 THE LAW REQUIRING A POSTMORTEM
20 EXAMINATION WHEN A DEATH IS BY APPARENT
21 DRUG, ALCOHOL, OR POISON TOXICITY.
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23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 12-12-318(a)(3)(B), concerning postmortem
27 examinations, is amended to read as follows:

28 (B)(i) The county coroner having jurisdiction where a
29 death occurs shall submit a decedent to the State Crime Laboratory for a
30 postmortem examination when the death is by apparent drug, alcohol, or poison
31 toxicity, unless ~~a significant interval passed while~~ the person was
32 hospitalized and hospital evaluation is available for review.

33 (ii) As used in subdivision (a)(3)(B)(i) of this
34 section, "hospitalized" means admitted to a hospital for inpatient treatment.
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36 APPROVED: 3/12/25

