

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1043

4  
5 By: Representative Shelby  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CORONER'S ADVISORY TASK  
10 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

12  
13 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CORONER'S ADVISORY  
14 TASK FORCE.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 15, Subchapter 3 is amended  
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 14-15-307. Coroner's Advisory Task Force – Creation – Powers and  
22 duties.

23 (a)(1) The Coroner's Advisory Task Force is created and shall consist  
24 of thirteen (13) members.

25 (2) The Governor shall appoint to the task force:

26 (A)(i) Six (6) members who are current county coroners,  
27 selected in a manner so that each of the four (4) congressional districts are  
28 represented by at least one (1) coroner.

29 (ii) Of the persons appointed under subdivision  
30 (a)(2)(A)(i) of this section:

31 (a) One (1) member shall be from a Class 1  
32 county or a Class 2 county as defined by § 14-14-1204(b);

33 (b) One (1) member shall be from a Class 3  
34 county or a Class 4 county as defined by § 14-14-1204(b);

35 (c) One (1) member shall be from a Class 5  
36 county or a Class 6 county as defined by § 14-14-1204(b); and



1 (d) One (1) member shall be from a Class 7  
2 county as defined by § 14-14-1204(b);

3 (B) One (1) member who is a representative of the funeral  
4 home industry;

5 (C) One (1) member who is a licensed attorney in Arkansas;

6 (D) One (1) member who is a licensed physician in  
7 Arkansas;

8 (E) The State Medical Examiner or his or her designee;

9 (F) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Sheriffs'  
10 Association;

11 (G) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her  
12 designee; and

13 (H) One (1) member who is a consumer representative.

14 (3) If a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a  
15 replacement who represents the same constituency as the vacating member.

16 (4) Members shall elect a chair who shall serve for one (1)  
17 year.

18 (5) A majority of the members being present shall constitute a  
19 quorum for the transaction of business.

20 (6) The task force shall meet as necessary to further the intent  
21 and purpose of this subchapter.

22 (7) The Department of Health shall provide office space and  
23 staff for the task force if funds are available.

24 (8) Members shall serve without pay but may receive expense  
25 reimbursement under § 25-16-902 if funds are available.

26 (b) The task force shall develop standards and policy recommendations  
27 on certain issues, including without limitation the following:

28 (1) Treatment of a body during the course of a death  
29 investigation;

30 (2) The proper manner of choosing who is designated to remove a  
31 body from a death scene during the course of a death investigation and at the  
32 conclusion of a death investigation;

33 (3) The manner and timeliness of notification of next of kin of  
34 the deceased;

35 (4) Other standards and policy recommendations to ensure that  
36 all functions of the coroner are performed in a professional and ethical

1 manner; and

2 (5) Recommendations to the 88th General Assembly for improvement  
3 of laws regarding the duties of a coroner, including without limitation  
4 proper levels of compensation for the increasing responsibilities and level  
5 of training needed to conduct a proper, thorough, and up-to-date death  
6 investigation.

7 (c) The task force shall be abolished on April 30, 2011.

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