

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.

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2007-207

State of Arkansas
87th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

MBM/MBM
HOUSE BILL

By: Representative Shelby

Filed with: House Interim Committee on City, County and Local Affairs
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

AN ACT TO CREATE THE CORONER'S ADVISORY
TASK FORCE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 15, Subchapter 3 is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

(a)(1) The Coroner's Advisory Task Force is created and shall consist
of fourteen (14) members.

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

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

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

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

(b) One (1) member shall be from a Class Three

1 (3) or Class Four (4) county as defined by Arkansas Code § 14-14-1204(b);

2 (c) One (1) member shall be from a Class Five

3 (5) or Class Six (6) county as defined by Arkansas Code § 14-14-1204(b); and

4 (d) One (1) member shall be from a Class Seven

5 (7) county as defined by Arkansas Code § 14-14-1204(b).

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

8 (C) One (1) member who is a religious leader from any
9 faith;

10 (D) One (1) member who is a licensed attorney in Arkansas;

11 (E) One (1) member who is a licensed physician in
12 Arkansas;

13 (F) The State Medical Examiner or his or her designee;

14 (G) One (1) member to represent the Arkansas Sheriffs'
15 Association

16 (H) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her
17 designee; and

18 (I) One (1) member who is a practicing hospice nurse.

19 (3) The term of office for each member shall be three (3) years,
20 except that the initial members shall be assigned terms based on lot so as to
21 stagger the terms of office.

22 (4) If a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a
23 replacement who represents the same constituency as the vacating member.

24 (5) Members shall elect a chair who shall serve for one (1)
25 year.

26 (6) A majority of the members being present shall constitute a
27 quorum for the transaction of business.

28 (7) The task force shall meet as necessary to further the intent
29 and purpose of this subchapter.

30 (8) The Department of Health shall provide office space and
31 staff for the task force if funds are available.

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

34 (10) If a member misses two (2) or more consecutive meetings of
35 the task force, his or her position shall be declared vacant and the Governor
36 shall appoint a person to serve the remainder of the member's term.

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

3 (1) Treatment of a body during the course of a death
4 investigation;

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

8 (3) The manner and timeliness of notification of next of kin of
9 the deceased;

10 (4) Other standards and policy recommendations to ensure that
11 all functions of the coroner are performed in a professional and ethical
12 manner; and

13 (5) Recommendations to the General Assembly for improvement of
14 laws regarding the duties of a coroner, including without limitation proper
15 levels of compensation for the increasing responsibilities and level of
16 training needed to conduct a proper, thorough, and up-to-date death
17 investigation.

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