

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1051

By: Representative Wilson

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE OF 1987 ANNOTATED
12-12-305(b) (4) AND 12-12-318(a) TO MAKE THE PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY OF EACH JUDICIAL DISTRICT THE SOLE AUTHORITY FOR
REQUESTING AUTOPSIES FROM THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER AND TO
LIMIT THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S INVESTIGATION AND
DETERMINATION TO THE MEDICAL CAUSE OF DEATH; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated 12-12-305(b) (4) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(4) Pathology and biology, which shall investigate and make a determination of the medical cause of deaths which become subject to the jurisdiction of the State Medical Examiner as set out in 12-12-315 and shall include the general application of the medical sciences to assist the criminal justice system in the State of Arkansas;"

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated 12-12-318(a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(a) When death occurs under such circumstances as described in 12-12-315, the State Crime Laboratory shall have the power and authority to perform such functions and duties as may be provided by this subchapter. The State Crime Laboratory shall make such examinations or investigations or perform such autopsies to determine the medical cause of death as the Executive Director of the State Crime Laboratory deems necessary or as may be requested by the prosecuting attorney of the jurisdiction in which death occurs or is discovered.

SECTION 3. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.