

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

1833

By: Representative Fairchild

For An Act To Be Entitled

"CORONERS' TRAINING ACT OF 1989".

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This act shall be known and cited as the "Coroners' Training Act of 1989".

SECTION 2. To perform the duties of county coroner, a person shall meet the following qualifications:

(a) The county coroner and his appointed deputies shall have a high school or equivalent educational degree.

(b) (1) All coroners and their appointed deputies shall have completed a forty (40) hours training course conducted by the State of Arkansas within six (6) months of taking office upon their original election to the office of Coroner, or upon any re-election if there has not been a succession of terms. All coroners and their appointed deputies shall attend no less than sixteen (16) hours of additional professional training each year thereafter.

(2) At least eight hours of the training shall be conducted at the State Crime Laboratory or the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences or both.

(3) The curriculum for the training mandated herein is to be developed or recognized by representatives from the following agencies and organizations: the Arkansas Coroners Association, or any successor, the Arkansas State Crime Laboratory, the Arkansas State Police, the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy, the University of Arkansas Campus for Medical Sciences, and the Office of Prosecutor Coordinator.

(4) Training courses required by this section shall be conducted at times and sites to be determined by the above named organizations and agencies.

(5) The organizations and agencies named in this subsection shall appoint a representative by July 1, 1989 to the training curriculum group. The training curriculum developed by the above shall be completed by November 1, 1990.

(6) The curriculum developed in accordance with this subsection shall be reviewed in a biennial basis, and updated as necessary.

(c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of coroner, his successor shall take part in the first available training session.

(d) Coroners and their deputies shall be reimbursed by the State at the same per diem and travel reimbursement rate as State employees when attending required training courses. All other expenses, including, but not limited to, tuition and fees, shall be paid by the various counties.

(e) (1) A coroner who fails to successfully complete the training mandated herein shall not be permitted to perform the duties of coroner.

(2) In the event a coroner knowingly and purposefully fails to complete the training as mandated herein, the office shall be considered vacant and a successor appointed in accordance with A.C.A. §14-14-1310.

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.