1	A D:11	
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3	3 Regular Session, 2023	HOUSE BILL 1557
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6	6 By: Senator B. Johnson	
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9	9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE	
10	O CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN RECORDS RELATED TO A	
11	1 CORONER'S INVESTIGATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	
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14	4 Subtitle	
15	5 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE	
16	6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN RECORDS	
17	7 RELATED TO A CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.	
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20	O BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS	3:
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22	2 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-15-304 is amended to read	d as follows:
23	3 14-15-304. Confidentiality.	
24	4 (a)(1) Records Except as provided in this section, reco	ords, files, and
25	5 <u>information</u> gathered and created during the course of a corone	er's
26	6 investigation shall be confidential and deemed exempt from the	e Freedom of
27	7 Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., but only until s	such time that
28	8 the coroner issues his or her final report.	
29	9 <u>(2) If the death that is the subject of the coron</u>	<u>ner's</u>
30	0 <u>investigation</u> is the subject of an open and ongoing investigat	tion by a law
31	l <u>enforcement agency</u> , including without limitation a criminal in	nvestigation or
32	2 <u>a criminal trial, the following shall be confidential and deer</u>	ned exempt from
33	3 the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq., 1	until the
34	4 <u>conclusion of the open and ongoing investigation by a law enfo</u>	orcement agency:
35	5 (A) All reports issued by the coroner, incl	<u>luding without</u>
36	6 limitation the preliminary written report and any subsequent :	reports: and

1	(B) Records, files, and information gathered and created	
2	during the course of the coroner's investigation.	
3	(b) Confidential medical information gathered during the course of the	
4	investigation shall remain exempt from public inspection and copying except	
5	as quoted in the coroner's final report.	
6	(c) If a coroner submits a decedent or records, files, or information	
7	related to a decedent to the State Crime Laboratory for forensic examination,	
8	then the records, files, and information received by the coroner from the	
9	State Crime Laboratory regarding the decedent are privileged and confidential	
10	in the same manner as records, files, and information kept, obtained, or	
11	retained by the State Crime Laboratory under § 12-12-312 and are subject to	
12	the exceptions for disclosure under § 12-12-312.	
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