



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 814: The William C. Lindley, Jr. SUDEP Law

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Re-ref to Health Care. If fav, re-ref to Judiciary II	Date:	June 29, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Riddell, Ross	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula Committee Staff
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H814-CSSH-41		

SUMMARY: *House Bill 814 requires the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to establish a medical examiner training program that includes training regarding Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). The PCS mirrors the language in Section 12E.4 of the Senate Budget, but also changes the term sudden "unexplained" to "unexpected" death in epilepsy, removes the requirement that the continuing education be annual, and makes a technical correction to the effective date.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 130A-385 outlines the duties of a medical examiner. A medical examiner is responsible for making inquiries regarding the cause and manner of death for each body in his or her charge, reducing the findings to writing, and making a full report to the Chief Medical Examiner. Medical examiners are authorized to inspect and copy medical records of the decedent. Upon completion of the investigation, the medical examiner is required to complete a death certificate, which includes the cause, means or manner of death, including if such a cause, means, or manner is undeterminable.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for House Bill 814 amends G.S. 130A-382 to require the Chief Medical Examiner to appoint two or more county medical examiners. The PCS changes the term sudden "unexplained" death to "unexpected" death and requires continuing education training for county medical examiners that must include training on sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP). The PCS deletes the requirement that the training be on an annual basis. The training must be based upon established and published guidelines. The guidelines must be published and annually updated on the Web site of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. The bill also requires any newly appointed county medical examiners to complete mandatory orientation within 90 days of their appointment.

The bill adds subsection (c) to G.S. 130A-382 to allow the Chief Medical Examiner to revoke a county medical examiner's appointment for failure to adequately perform the duties of the office after giving written notice of the basis for the revocation and opportunity to respond.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS corrects the effective date to provide that the act would become effective January 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND: According to the Epilepsy Foundation, SUDEP "is said to occur when a person with epilepsy dies unexpectedly and was previously in their usual state of health. The death is not known to be related to an accident or seizure emergency such as status epilepticus. When an autopsy is done, no other of cause of death can be found. Each year, more than 1 out of 1,000 people with epilepsy die from SUDEP." ¹

Amy Jo Johnson, former staff to the House Health Committee, contributed to this summary.

¹ <http://www.epilepsy.com/sudep-institute>

