



**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:	House Health	Date:	April 27, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Riddell, Ross	Prepared by:	Amy Jo Johnson Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H814-CSTK-37		

SUMMARY: *The PCS to House bill 814 requires the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to establish a medical examiner training program that includes training regarding sudden unexplained death in epilepsy.*

CURRENT LAW:

A medical examiner makes inquiries regarding the cause and manner of death for each body in his or her charge. A medical examiner is required to reduce the findings to writing and make a full report to the Chief Medical Examiner. In doing so, the 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. G.S. 130A-379.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The PCS to H814 would amend G.S. 130A-382 to include training requirements for medical examiners. County medical examiners would be required to complete annual continuing education requirements that include training on sudden unexplained death in epilepsy. This training would be based upon established guidelines and policies as directed by the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. The guidelines would be published and annually updated on the website of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. Any newly appointed county medical examiners would be required to complete mandatory orientation within 90 days of their appointment.

The PCS would 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: This act becomes 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

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

