



# HOUSE BILL 1157: Abolish Coroner in Various Counties.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b> Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b> June 3, 2020
<b>Introduced by:</b> Rep. Brewer	<b>Prepared by:</b> Jessica Sammons
<b>Analysis of:</b> Third Edition	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 1157 would abolish the office of coroner in Avery, Bladen, Hoke, Montgomery, and Yadkin Counties.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 152 of the General Statutes sets out the duties of elected county coroners in the State.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 1 of House Bill 1157 would abolish the office of coroner in Montgomery County and would provide that Chapter 152 of the General Statutes does not apply to Montgomery County.

Section 2 of the bill would abolish the office of coroner in Avery, Bladen, Hoke, and Yadkin Counties, and would provide that Chapter 152 of the General Statutes does not apply to those counties.

Section 3 of the bill would provide that, notwithstanding Section 2 of the bill, any coroner elected in the 2018 or 2020 general election would serve the remainder of the coroner's term. Section 3 would further provide that the event a vacancy in the office occurs, a person could be appointed to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Sections 2 and 3 would become effective January 1, 2021. Section 1 would be effective when it becomes law.

## BACKGROUND:

- From 1965-67, several local laws were enacted providing for the appointment of medical doctors as county medical examiners and abolishing the office of coroner in several counties.
- In 1967, the General Assembly enacted S.L. 1967-1154 which established the State Office of Chief Medical Examiner to provide for a Statewide system for postmortem examinations of deaths related to crimes, suicide, prison confinement, or other specified circumstances.
- Since the 1960s, the office of elected county coroner has been abolished in most counties of the State.

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