



HOUSE BILL 807: Improve Efficiency of Medical Examiner System.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 30, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Boles, Dobson, Iler, Richardson	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 807 would expand the types of professionals qualified for appointment as a medical examiner, define when a body is unclaimed for purposes of determining the method of disposal after a death investigation, and protect the confidentiality of certain information concerning death investigations.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Expand Types of Professionals Appointable as a Medical Examiner. Allows retired physicians, medicolegal death investigators, and pathologists' assistants to be appointed county medical examiner.

Directs Cremation of Unclaimed Body. Directs the Chief Medical Examiner to dispose of an unclaimed body by cremation.

Defines Unclaimed Body. Explains a body is deemed unclaimed if either: no individual within 10 days has notified the person in possession of the body of the desire to dispose of it or all individuals who expressed interest have (i) stopped communicating for at least 5 consecutive days, (ii) at least 10 days have passed since the date of death, and (iii) person in possession of body has made reasonable efforts to contact all interested individuals.

Protects Confidentiality of Death Investigation Information and Records. Provides all information and records provided by a public entity to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concerning a death investigation shall retain the same degree of confidentiality it had while in the possession of the public entity and shall not become public records (unless information was public record while in possession of public entity).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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