

HB 480 -- Coroners and Medical Examiners

Sponsor: Cooper (158)

This bill changes the laws regarding the authority of county coroners and medical examiners to conduct death investigations. The bill requires that when a person dies while being transferred from one county to another; while being transferred into the state; while being treated in the emergency room of the receiving facility; or by homicide, suicide, accident, criminal abortion, child fatality, or by any unusual or suspicious manner, a death investigation must be conducted by the coroner or medical examiner in the county or state from which the person was being transferred. The coroner in the county in which a transferred person dies (the receiving county) must obtain authorization from the coroner in the transferring county before conducting an investigation. Currently, both county coroners are allowed to investigate the death. The coroner, medical examiner, or medical facility staff in the county where a person is determined to be dead must notify the coroner or medical examiner in the transferring county of the death.