

House \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By \_\_\_\_\_

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 951, Page 1, Section A, Line 3, by  
2 inserting immediately after said line the following:

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4 "58.451. 1. When any person, in any county in which a coroner is required by section  
5 58.010, dies and there is reasonable ground to believe that such person died as a result of:

6 (1) Violence by homicide, suicide, or accident;

7 (2) Criminal abortions, including those self-induced;

8 (3) Some unforeseen sudden occurrence and the deceased had not been attended by a  
9 physician during the thirty-six-hour period preceding the death;

10 (4) In any unusual or suspicious manner;

11 (5) Any injury or illness while in the custody of the law or while an inmate in a public  
12 institution[;]

13  
14 the police, sheriff, law enforcement officer or official, or any person having knowledge of such a  
15 death shall immediately notify the coroner of the known facts concerning the time, place, manner  
16 and circumstances of the death. Immediately upon receipt of notification, the coroner or deputy  
17 coroner shall take charge of the dead body and fully investigate the essential facts concerning the  
18 medical causes of death, including whether by the act of man, and the manner of death. The  
19 coroner or deputy coroner may take the names and addresses of witnesses to the death and shall file  
20 this information in the coroner's office. The coroner or deputy coroner shall take possession of all  
21 property of value found on the body, making exact inventory of such property on the report and  
22 shall direct the return of such property to the person entitled to its custody or possession. The  
23 coroner or deputy coroner shall take possession of any object or article which, in the coroner's or the  
24 deputy coroner's opinion, may be useful in establishing the cause of death, and deliver it to the  
25 prosecuting attorney of the county.

26 2. When a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility, the first licensed medical  
27 professional or law enforcement official learning of such death shall immediately contact the county  
28 coroner. Immediately upon receipt of such notification, the coroner or the coroner's deputy shall  
29 make the determination if further investigation is necessary, based on information provided by the  
30 individual contacting the coroner, and immediately advise such individual of the coroner's  
31 intentions.

32 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, when a death occurs under  
33 the care of a hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating  
34 physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice. The hospice shall provide written  
35 notice to the coroner within twenty-four hours of the death.

36 [3.] 4. Upon taking charge of the dead body and before moving the body the coroner shall

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 notify the police department of any city in which the dead body is found, or if the dead body is  
2 found in the unincorporated area of a county governed by the provisions of sections 58.451 to  
3 58.457, the coroner shall notify the county sheriff or the highway patrol and cause the body to  
4 remain unmoved until the police department, sheriff or the highway patrol has inspected the body  
5 and the surrounding circumstances and carefully noted the appearance, the condition and position of  
6 the body and recorded every fact and circumstance tending to show the cause and manner of death,  
7 with the names and addresses of all known witnesses, and shall subscribe the same and make such  
8 record a part of the coroner's report.

9 [4.] 5. In any case of sudden, violent or suspicious death after which the body was buried  
10 without any investigation or autopsy, the coroner, upon being advised of such facts, may at the  
11 coroner's own discretion request that the prosecuting attorney apply for a court order requiring the  
12 body to be exhumed.

13 [5.] 6. The coroner may certify the cause of death in any case where death occurred without  
14 medical attendance or where an attending physician refuses to sign a certificate of death or when a  
15 physician is unavailable to sign a certificate of death.

16 [6.] 7. When the cause of death is established by the coroner, the coroner shall file a copy of  
17 the findings in the coroner's office within thirty days.

18 [7.] 8. If on view of the dead body and after personal inquiry into the cause and manner of  
19 death, the coroner determines that a further examination is necessary in the public interest, the  
20 coroner on the coroner's own authority may make or cause to be made an autopsy on the body. The  
21 coroner may on the coroner's own authority employ the services of a pathologist, chemist, or other  
22 expert to aid in the examination of the body or of substances supposed to have caused or contributed  
23 to death, and if the pathologist, chemist, or other expert is not already employed by the city or  
24 county for the discharge of such services, the pathologist, chemist, or other expert shall, upon  
25 written authorization of the coroner, be allowed reasonable compensation, payable by the city or  
26 county, in the manner provided in section 58.530. The coroner shall, at the time of the autopsy,  
27 record or cause to be recorded each fact and circumstance tending to show the condition of the body  
28 and the cause and manner of death.

29 [8.] 9. If on view of the dead body and after personal inquiry into the cause and manner of  
30 death, the coroner considers a further inquiry and examination necessary in the public interest, the  
31 coroner shall make out the coroner's warrant directed to the sheriff of the city or county requiring  
32 the sheriff forthwith to summon six good and lawful citizens of the county to appear before the  
33 coroner, at the time and place expressed in the warrant, and to inquire how and by whom the  
34 deceased died.

35 [9.] 10. (1) When a person is being transferred from one county to another county for  
36 medical treatment and such person dies while being transferred, or dies while being treated in the  
37 emergency room of the receiving facility, the place which the person is determined to be dead shall  
38 be considered the place of death and the county coroner or medical examiner of the county from  
39 which the person was originally being transferred shall be responsible for determining the cause and  
40 manner of death for the Missouri certificate of death.

41 (2) The coroner or medical examiner in the county in which the person is determined to be  
42 dead may with authorization of the coroner or medical examiner from the original transferring  
43 county, investigate and conduct postmortem examinations at the expense of the coroner or medical  
44 examiner from the original transferring county. The coroner or medical examiner from the original  
45 transferring county shall be responsible for investigating the circumstances of such and completing  
46 the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the  
47 deceased was pronounced dead.

48 (3) Such coroner or medical examiner of the county where a person is determined to be

1 dead shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which the person  
 2 was originally being transferred of the death of such person, and shall make available information  
 3 and records obtained for investigation of the death.

4 (4) If a person does not die while being transferred and is institutionalized as a regularly  
 5 admitted patient after such transfer and subsequently dies while in such institution, the coroner or  
 6 medical examiner of the county in which the person is determined to be dead shall immediately  
 7 notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which such person was originally  
 8 transferred of the death of such person. In such cases, the county in which the deceased was  
 9 institutionalized shall be considered the place of death. If the manner of death is by homicide,  
 10 suicide, accident, criminal abortion including those that are self-induced, child fatality, or any  
 11 unusual or suspicious manner, the investigation of the cause and manner of death shall revert to the  
 12 county of origin, and this coroner or medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri  
 13 certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was  
 14 pronounced dead.

15 [10.] 11. There shall not be any statute of limitations or time limits on the cause of death  
 16 when death is the final result or determined to be caused by homicide, suicide, accident, child  
 17 fatality, criminal abortion including those self-induced, or any unusual or suspicious manner. The  
 18 place of death shall be the place in which the person is determined to be dead. The final  
 19 investigation of death in determining the cause and matter of death shall revert to the county of  
 20 origin, and the coroner or medical examiner of such county shall be responsible for the Missouri  
 21 certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was  
 22 pronounced dead.

23 [11.] 12. Except as provided in subsection [9] 10 of this section, if a person dies in one  
 24 county and the body is subsequently transferred to another county, for burial or other reasons, the  
 25 county coroner or medical examiner where the death occurred shall be responsible for the certificate  
 26 of death and for investigating the cause and manner of the death.

27 [12.] 13. In performing the duties, the coroner or medical examiner shall comply with  
 28 sections 58.775 to 58.785 with respect to organ donation.

29 58.720. 1. When any person dies within a county having a medical examiner as a result of:

- 30 (1) Violence by homicide, suicide, or accident;
- 31 (2) Thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury;
- 32 (3) Criminal abortions, including those self-induced;
- 33 (4) Disease thought to be of a hazardous and contagious nature or which might constitute a  
 34 threat to public health; or when any person dies:
- 35 (a) Suddenly when in apparent good health;
- 36 (b) When unattended by a physician, chiropractor, or an accredited Christian Science  
 37 practitioner, during the period of thirty-six hours immediately preceding his death;
- 38 (c) While in the custody of the law, or while an inmate in a public institution;
- 39 (d) In any unusual or suspicious manner[;]

40  
 41 the police, sheriff, law enforcement officer or official, or any person having knowledge of such a  
 42 death shall immediately notify the office of the medical examiner of the known facts concerning the  
 43 time, place, manner and circumstances of the death. Immediately upon receipt of notification, the  
 44 medical examiner or his designated assistant shall take charge of the dead body and fully investigate  
 45 the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death. He may take the names and addresses of  
 46 witnesses to the death and shall file this information in his office. The medical examiner or his  
 47 designated assistant shall take possession of all property of value found on the body, making exact  
 48 inventory thereof on his report and shall direct the return of such property to the person entitled to

1 its custody or possession. The medical examiner or his designated assistant examiner shall take  
2 possession of any object or article which, in his opinion, may be useful in establishing the cause of  
3 death, and deliver it to the prosecuting attorney of the county.

4 2. When a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility, the first licensed medical  
5 professional or law enforcement official learning of such death shall contact the county medical  
6 examiner. Immediately upon receipt of such notification, the medical examiner or the medical  
7 examiner's deputy shall make a determination if further investigation is necessary, based on  
8 information provided by the individual contacting the medical examiner, and immediately advise  
9 such individual of the medical examiner's intentions.

10 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section, when a death occurs under  
11 the care of a hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating  
12 physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice. The hospice shall provide written  
13 notice to the medical examiner within twenty-four hours of the death.

14 [3.] 4. In any case of sudden, violent or suspicious death after which the body was buried  
15 without any investigation or autopsy, the medical examiner, upon being advised of such facts, may  
16 at his own discretion request that the prosecuting attorney apply for a court order requiring the body  
17 to be exhumed.

18 [4.] 5. The medical examiner shall certify the cause of death in any case where death  
19 occurred without medical attendance or where an attending physician refuses to sign a certificate of  
20 death, and may sign a certificate of death in the case of any death.

21 [5.] 6. When the cause of death is established by the medical examiner, he shall file a copy  
22 of his findings in his office within thirty days after notification of the death.

23 [6.] 7. (1) When a person is being transferred from one county to another county for  
24 medical treatment and such person dies while being transferred, or dies while being treated in the  
25 emergency room of the receiving facility, the place which the person is determined to be dead shall  
26 be considered the place of death and the county coroner or the medical examiner of the county from  
27 which the person was originally being transferred shall be responsible for determining the cause and  
28 manner of death for the Missouri certificate of death.

29 (2) The coroner or medical examiner in the county in which the person is determined to be  
30 dead may, with authorization of the coroner or medical examiner from the transferring county,  
31 investigate and conduct postmortem examinations at the expense of the coroner or medical examiner  
32 from the transferring county. The coroner or medical examiner from the transferring county shall  
33 be responsible for investigating the circumstances of such and completing the Missouri certificate of  
34 death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced  
35 dead.

36 (3) Such coroner or medical examiner, or the county where a person is determined to be  
37 dead, shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which the person  
38 was originally being transferred of the death of such person and shall make available information  
39 and records obtained for investigation of death.

40 (4) If a person does not die while being transferred and is institutionalized as a regularly  
41 admitted patient after such transfer and subsequently dies while in such institution, the coroner or  
42 medical examiner of the county in which the person is determined to be dead shall immediately  
43 notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which such person was originally  
44 transferred of the death of such person. In such cases, the county in which the deceased was  
45 institutionalized shall be considered the place of death. If the manner of death is by homicide,  
46 suicide, accident, criminal abortion including those that are self-induced, child fatality, or any  
47 unusual or suspicious manner, the investigation of the cause and manner of death shall revert to the  
48 county of origin, and this coroner or medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri

1 certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was  
2 pronounced dead.

3 [7.] 8. There shall not be any statute of limitations or time limits on cause of death when  
4 death is the final result or determined to be caused by homicide, suicide, accident, criminal abortion  
5 including those self-induced, child fatality, or any unusual or suspicious manner. The place of death  
6 shall be the place in which the person is determined to be dead, but the final investigation of death  
7 determining the cause and manner of death shall revert to the county of origin, and this coroner or  
8 medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death  
9 shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

10 [8.] 9. Except as provided in subsection [6] 7 of this section, if a person dies in one county  
11 and the body is subsequently transferred to another county, for burial or other reasons, the county  
12 coroner or medical examiner where the death occurred shall be responsible for the certificate of  
13 death and for investigating the cause and manner of the death.

14 [9.] 10. In performing the duties, the coroner or medical examiner shall comply with  
15 sections 58.775 to 58.785 with respect to organ donation."; and

16  
17 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
18 accordingly.