

HB 1312 -- DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Sauls

Currently, in any county with a coroner, when a person dies and there are reasonable grounds to believe that he or she died as a result of violence by homicide, suicide, or accident; criminal abortion; some unforeseen sudden occurrence; in any unusual or suspicious manner; or by any injury or illness while in the custody of the law or while an inmate in a public institution, the coroner is required to fully investigate the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death. This bill specifies that, whenever an individual who had been the victim of a sexual assault or domestic violence incident during the previous five years dies, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that he or she died in the manner described above, an autopsy shall be required as part of the coroner's investigation. The law enforcement officer or official providing the death notification to the coroner shall include information about any sexual assault or incident of domestic violence.

Currently, in any county with a medical examiner, when a person dies as a result of violence by homicide, suicide, or accident; thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury; criminal abortion; disease thought to be of a hazardous and contagious nature or that might constitute a threat to public health; or dies suddenly, in apparent good health, while in the custody of the law or while an inmate in a public institution, or in any unusual or suspicious manner, the medical examiner is required to fully investigate the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death. This bill specifies that, whenever a person who has been the victim of a sexual assault or domestic violence incident during the previous five years dies in a manner described above, an autopsy shall be required as part of the medical examiner's investigation. The law enforcement officer or official providing the death notification to the office of the medical examiner shall include information about any sexual assault or incident of domestic violence.

This bill is the same as HB 2062 (2022).