



are not required to notify organ procurement organizations for deaths occurring outside of a hospital.

Less than 2 percent of the 2.6 million Americans who die each year qualify for organ donation, largely because most people die outside of hospitals and hospital deaths generally are required for donation.<sup>1</sup> A lot of deaths that occur outside of the hospital are young, healthy people in traumatic accidents.<sup>2</sup> In Kentucky alone, the five year average for highway fatalities **only**, 2010-2014, is 705.

Within the last year near Princeton, KY, the parents of an individual whose death resulted from a traffic accident said up to 50 people could have been helped if notification had been timely. As a result the wishes of the deceased were not fulfilled.<sup>3</sup>

### **Part III: Fiscal Explanation, Bill Provisions, and Estimated Cost**

#### **The fiscal impact of SB 139 on local governments is nil.**

Currently when a coroner is called to the scene of a traffic accident, homicide, or any type of occurrence resulting in the death of an individual, the coroner will first identify the body in order to contact next of kin. This procedure, if circumstances permit, includes looking at personal belongings including billfold / purse, and driver's license. If, by either notation on the license or by separate donor card, it is discovered the deceased is a donor, then the Kentucky Organ Donor Association (KODA) is contacted immediately to inform them of the situation. Follow-up calls may be made when necessary in order to provide a more complete picture of the scene. KRS 72.025 currently requires post-mortem exams when death occurs under specific conditions including homicide, violence, and accidents. Post mortem exams may delay or in some instances, not allow the timely harvesting of organs.

Most coroners are currently contacting procurement organizations such as Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates as soon as possible when circumstances allow. Although every effort is made, the inherent nature of accident scenes may prevent the timely notification of an organ procurement organization.

There would be no additional cost to the Coroner's office.

**Data Source(s):** 1-2 Wahlberg, D. (2015, July 5). Doctors See Organ Donation From Deaths Outside of Hospitals, Wisconsin State Journal

3) Foust, F. (December 2, 2015). Organ Donor Law Change Sought, The Herald Ledger, Eddyville, KY

General references:

LRC Staff, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Coroners Association

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