

1 AN ACT relating to the compensation of coroners and deputy coroners.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 64.185 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) (a) Coroners shall receive out of the county, consolidated local government,
5 charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local
6 government treasury, whichever is appropriate, the annual~~monthly~~
7 compensation the fiscal court of each county shall fix, subject to this
8 subsection.~~[the following minimums:]~~

9 (b) 1. a. The salary schedule for coroners in subdivision b. of this
10 subparagraph provides for nine (9) levels of minimum salaries
11 based upon the population of the county in the year prior to the
12 election of the coroner. To implement the salary schedule, the
13 Department for Local Government shall, by November 1 of each
14 year preceding the election of the coroner, certify for each
15 county the population group applicable to each county based on
16 the most recent estimates of the United States Department of
17 Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The salary schedule shall
18 remain as determined by the Department for Local Government,
19 regardless of changes in the population estimates or the actual
20 census count that may occur during the term for which the
21 coroner has been elected or appointed.

22 b. i. The salary schedule provides four (4) steps for yearly
23 increments within each population group. A coroner's
24 salary shall be at a minimum equal to the amount stated for
25 the first step within the applicable population group for the
26 first year or portion thereof the coroner serves in office.
27 Thereafter, on January 1 of each subsequent year, the

1 coroner's salary shall be advanced automatically to the
 2 next step in the salary schedule for the population group
 3 and shall be at a minimum equal to the salary amount
 4 stated for that step.

5 ii. Prior to assuming office, any person assuming the office as
 6 a coroner must certify to the commissioner of the
 7 Department for Local Government the total number of
 8 years, not to exceed four (4) years, that the person has
 9 previously served as a coroner. The Department for Local
 10 Government shall place the coroner in the proper step
 11 based upon a formula of one (1) incremental step per full
 12 calendar year of service:

13 SALARY SCHEDULE

14 County Population Steps and Minimum Salary for Coroners

15 by Group

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>
17 <u>Group I</u>				
18 <u>0-4,999</u>	<u>\$20,240.84</u>	<u>\$21,013.00</u>	<u>\$21,785.16</u>	<u>\$22,557.32</u>
19 <u>Group II</u>				
20 <u>5,000-9,999</u>	<u>23,557.32</u>	<u>24,329.48</u>	<u>25,101.64</u>	<u>25,873.80</u>
21 <u>Group III</u>				
22 <u>10,000-19,999</u>	<u>26,873.80</u>	<u>27,916.22</u>	<u>28,958.64</u>	<u>32,001.06</u>
23 <u>Group IV</u>				
24 <u>20,000-29,999</u>	<u>32,001.06</u>	<u>33,043.48</u>	<u>34,085.90</u>	<u>35,128.32</u>
25 <u>Group V</u>				
26 <u>30,000-44,999</u>	<u>37,128.32</u>	<u>38,535.58</u>	<u>39,942.84</u>	<u>41,350.10</u>
27 <u>Group VI</u>				

1 45,000-59,999 44,350.10 45,757.36 47,164.62 48,571.88

2 Group VII

3 60,000-89,999 51,571.88 53,471.68 55,371.48 57,271.28

4 Group VIII

5 90,000-499,999 63,271.28 65,836.01 68,400.74 70,965.47

6 Group IX

7 500,000 and up 76,965.47 79,530.20 82,094.93 84,659.66

8 2. The salary schedule in subparagraph 1.b. of this paragraph is for the
9 compensation of full-time work. The fiscal court shall adjust the
10 salary of a part-time coroner by applying a percentage computed from
11 the hours of service provided by the part-time coroner.

12 (c) By the second Friday in February of every year, the Department for Local
13 Government shall adjust the salary schedule in paragraph (b) of this
14 subsection accordingly by using the percent increase in the nonseasonally
15 adjusted annual average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers
16 (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, All Items, between the two (2) most recent
17 calendar years available, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor
18 Statistics. Once adjusted, the Department for Local Government shall notify
19 each fiscal court of the adjusted salary schedule. The adjusted salary
20 amounts shall be retroactive to the preceding January 1, and shall not
21 exceed the amount determined by the annual adjustment required under
22 KRS 64.527.

23 (d) No coroner holding office on the effective date of this Act shall receive a
24 reduction in pay as a result of this subsection.

25 (e) 1. In addition to the step increases based on service in office, each
26 coroner shall be paid an annual incentive of one hundred dollars
27 (\$100) per calendar year for the completion of the training courses in

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subsection (4) of this section.

2. The coroner shall report all completed training courses to the Department for Local Government.

3. If a coroner fails, without good cause as determined by the commissioner of the Department for Local Government, to obtain the minimum amount of approved training in any year, the coroner shall lose all training incentives previously accumulated.

4. The training incentive in subparagraph (e) 1. of this paragraph shall be adjusted by the Department for Local Government on an annual basis for any increase or decrease in the consumer price index in the same manner as salaries are adjusted in paragraph (c) of this subsection.

5. The Department for Local Government may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish guidelines for the training incentive and the reporting of training courses.

County	Monthly Minimum
Population	Compensation
1. 10,000 or less	\$200
2. 10,001 to 20,000	300
3. 20,001 to 40,000	350
4. 40,001 to 60,000	400
5. 60,001 to 100,000	450
6. 100,001 to 150,000	800
7. 150,001 or more	1,000

~~(b) Coroners who hold a current certificate of continuing education, issued jointly by the Department of Criminal Justice Training, Justice and~~

1 ~~Public Safety Cabinet, and the Office of the Kentucky State Medical~~
 2 ~~Examiner, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and who have completed~~
 3 ~~the course described in subsection (4)(b) of this section, shall be paid the~~
 4 ~~following minimum monthly compensation set forth in this subsection~~
 5 ~~in recognition of the training:~~

6	County	Monthly Minimum
7	Population	Compensation
8	1. 10,000 or less	\$400
9	2. 10,001 to 20,000	500
10	3. 20,001 to 40,000	650
11	4. 40,001 to 60,000	750
12	5. 60,001 to 100,000	850
13	6. 100,001 to 150,000	1,100
14	7. 150,001 or more	1,300]

15 (2) (a) Deputy coroners who hold a current certificate of continuing education~~[, as~~
 16 ~~described in subsection (1)(b) of this section,]~~ and have completed the course
 17 described in subsection (4)(b) of this section, shall receive out of the county,
 18 consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county
 19 government, or unified local government treasury, whichever is appropriate,
 20 the monthly compensation the fiscal court of each county shall fix, subject to
 21 the following minimums:

22	County	Monthly Minimum
23	Population	Compensation
24	<u>1.</u> [(a)] <u>4,999</u> [10,000] or less	<u>\$400</u> [\$200]
25	<u>2.</u> [(b)] <u>5,000</u> [10,001] to <u>9,999</u> [20,000]	<u>500</u> [250]
26	<u>3.</u> [(c)] <u>10,000</u> [20,001] to <u>19,999</u> [40,000]	<u>550</u> [275]
27	<u>4.</u> [(d)] <u>20,000</u> [40,001] to <u>29,999</u> [60,000]	<u>600</u> [300]

1	5. [(e)]	<u>30,000</u> [60,001] to <u>44,999</u> [100,000]	<u>800</u> [400]
2	6. [(f)]	<u>45,000</u> [100,001] to <u>59,999</u> [150,000]	<u>1,800</u> [900]
3	7. [(g)]	<u>60,000 to 89,999</u> [150,001 or more]	<u>2,200</u> [1,100]
4	8.	<u>90,000 to 499,999</u>	<u>2,600</u>
5	9.	<u>500,000 and more</u>	<u>2,800</u>

~~(b) [(3)]~~ 1. In order to equate the compensation of deputy coroners with the purchasing power of the dollar, every year:

a. The Department for Local Government shall adjust the monthly minimum compensations provided in this subsection by a cost-of-living adjustment; and

b. A cost-of-living adjustment shall be granted to each deputy coroner's annual salary.

2. The cost-of-living adjustments provided in this subsection shall be computed by using the percent increase in the nonseasonally adjusted annual average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. City Average, All Items, between the two (2) most recent calendar years available, as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and shall not be less than zero (0).

3. The monthly minimum compensation amounts under paragraph (a) of this subsection are for compensation of full-time work. The fiscal court shall adjust the salary of a part-time deputy coroner by applying a percentage computed from the hours of service provided by the part-time deputy coroner.

(3) The fiscal court of any county, or the legislative body of a consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government shall:

(a) Provide~~[may compensate]~~ coroners and deputy coroners an additional amount

1 of up to three hundred dollars (\$300) per month for operational expenses;

2 (b) Pay for the cost of all post mortem bags and mortuary equipment used by
 3 the coroner or deputy coroner solely in the performance of the job. The
 4 fiscal court may pay for the cost of these items upfront or choose to
 5 reimburse coroners or deputy coroners for their incurred costs on a monthly
 6 basis; and

7 (c) Reimburse coroners and deputy coroners for the cost of the training courses
 8 required under subsection (4) of this section~~[as an expense allowance].~~

9 (4) (a) The initial course of continuing education~~[required under subsection (1)(b) of~~
 10 ~~this section]~~ shall consist of a forty (40) hour basic training course prescribed
 11 by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Annually thereafter the coroner shall
 12 attend and successfully complete at least eighteen (18) hours of approved
 13 training in order to be compensated in accordance with subsection
 14 (1)(e)~~[(1)(b)]~~ of this section.

15 (b) Within three (3) years of initially assuming office, in order to be compensated
 16 in accordance with subsections (1)(e)~~[(b)]~~ and (2) of this section, a coroner or
 17 deputy coroner shall attend and complete a course of at least four (4) hours
 18 provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training that shall include
 19 instruction on the grieving process and best practices for providing a notice of
 20 death to a spouse or next of kin and may include instruction on other similar
 21 topics. A coroner or deputy coroner that has completed the course shall not be
 22 required to retake the course.

23 (c)~~[(5)]~~ If a deputy coroner assumes the office of coroner after receiving the
 24 training stipulated in this subsection~~[section]~~, the deputy coroner shall be
 25 compensated in accordance with~~[the compensation schedule set forth in]~~
 26 subsection (1)(e)~~[(b)]~~ of this section.

27 (5)~~[(6)]~~ The number of deputy coroners in a county shall not exceed one (1) for each

1 twenty-five thousand (25,000) inhabitants, or fraction thereof, according to the most
2 recent federal census, but every coroner may, subject to the approval of the
3 legislative body of the county, consolidated local government, charter county
4 government, urban-county government, or unified local government, appoint
5 additional deputy coroners, regardless of population.

6 ➔Section 2. This Act takes effect January 4, 2027.