

1 AN ACT relating to the compensation of 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. The salary schedule for coroners in subparagraph 2.b. of this
10 paragraph provides for nine (9) levels of minimum salaries based
11 upon the population of the county in the year prior to the election of
12 the coroner. To implement the salary schedule, the Department for
13 Local Government shall, by November 1 of each year preceding the
14 election of the coroner, certify for each county the population group
15 applicable to each county based on the most recent estimates of the
16 United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The
17 salary schedule shall remain as determined by the Department for
18 Local Government, regardless of changes in the population estimates
19 or the actual census count that may occur during the term for which
20 the coroner has been elected or appointed.

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

population group and shall be at a minimum equal to the salary amount stated for that step.

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

SALARY SCHEDULE

<u>County Population</u>	<u>Steps and Minimum Salary for Coroners</u>			
<u>by Group</u>				
	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>
<u>Group I</u>				
<u>0-4,999</u>	<u>\$36,000</u>	<u>\$37,000</u>	<u>\$38,000</u>	<u>\$39,500</u>
<u>Group II</u>				
<u>5,000-9,999</u>	<u>39,501</u>	<u>40,500</u>	<u>41,500</u>	<u>43,000</u>
<u>Group III</u>				
<u>10,000-19,999</u>	<u>43,001</u>	<u>44,500</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>48,000</u>
<u>Group IV</u>				
<u>20,000-29,999</u>	<u>48,001</u>	<u>49,500</u>	<u>51,000</u>	<u>53,000</u>
<u>Group V</u>				
<u>30,000-44,999</u>	<u>53,001</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>57,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
<u>Group VI</u>				
<u>45,000-59,999</u>	<u>60,001</u>	<u>62,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>67,000</u>
<u>Group VII</u>				
<u>60,000-89,999</u>	<u>67,001</u>	<u>69,500</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>75,500</u>

Group VIII

<u>90,000-499,999</u>	<u>75,501</u>	<u>78,000</u>	<u>80,500</u>	<u>84,000</u>
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Group IX

<u>500,000 and up</u>	<u>84,001</u>	<u>87,450</u>	<u>90,900</u>	<u>95,335.76</u>
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(c) By the second Friday in February of each year, the Department for Local Government shall adjust the salary schedule in paragraph (b)2.b. of this subsection accordingly 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. Once adjusted, the Department for Local Government shall notify each fiscal court of the adjusted salary schedule. The adjusted salary amounts shall be retroactive to the preceding January 1, and shall not exceed the amount determined by the annual adjustment required under KRS 64.527.

(d) A coroner holding office on the effective date of this Act shall not receive a reduction in pay as a result of this subsection.

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

(f) All coroners shall be considered full-time workers and a local government shall not reduce the salary of a coroner below the minimum salary set out in paragraph (b)2.b. of this subsection due to the hours worked by the coroner.

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

1 ~~in recognition of the training:~~

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

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

18 County	Monthly Minimum
19 Population	Compensation
20 (a) 10,000 or less	\$200
21 (b) 10,001 to 20,000	250
22 (c) 20,001 to 40,000	275
23 (d) 40,001 to 60,000	300
24 (e) 60,001 to 100,000	400
25 (f) 100,001 to 150,000	900
26 (g) 150,001 or more	1,100

27 (3) The fiscal court of any county, or the legislative body of a consolidated local

1 government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local
2 government may compensate coroners and deputy coroners an additional amount of
3 up to three hundred dollars (\$300) per month as an expense allowance.

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

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

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

22 ~~(5)~~~~[(6)]~~ The number of deputy coroners in a county shall not exceed one (1) for each
23 twenty-five thousand (25,000) inhabitants, or fraction thereof, according to the most
24 recent federal census, but every coroner may, subject to the approval of the
25 legislative body of the county, consolidated local government, charter county
26 government, urban-county government, or unified local government, appoint
27 additional deputy coroners, regardless of population.

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