

1           AN ACT relating to deputy coroner training.

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

3           ➔Section 1. KRS 72.415 is amended to read as follows:

4    (1) For the purpose of enforcing[ the provisions of] KRS 72.410 to 72.470, coroners  
5        and deputy coroners[ shall] have the full power and authority of peace officers in  
6        this state, including the power of arrest and the authority to bear arms[,] and[ shall  
7        have the power and authority] to:

- 8           (a) Administer oaths;
- 9           (b) Enter upon public or private premises for the purpose of making  
10        investigations;
- 11        (c) Seize evidence;
- 12        (d) Interrogate persons;
- 13        (e) Require the production of medical records, books, papers, documents, or other  
14        evidence;
- 15        (f) Impound vehicles involved in vehicular deaths;
- 16        (g) Employ special investigators and photographers; and
- 17        (h) Expend funds for the purpose of carrying out[ the provisions of] KRS 72.410  
18        to 72.470.

19       The fiscal court or urban-county government shall pay all reasonable expenses  
20       incurred by the coroner and his or her deputy in carrying out his or her  
21       responsibilities under[ the provisions of] KRS 72.410 to 72.470.

22    (2) (a) 1. A[No] person shall not be eligible to hold the office of deputy coroner  
23       unless he or she holds a high school diploma or its recognized  
24       equivalent. Every deputy coroner, other than a licensed physician, shall  
25       be required as a condition of office to take during every calendar year he  
26       or she is in office the training course of at least eighteen (18) hours  
27       provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training or other

1 courses approved by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet after having  
2 completed the basic training course the first year of employment. The  
3 training course shall include material developed by the cabinet and  
4 approved by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services on the human  
5 immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency  
6 syndrome. The material shall include information on known modes of  
7 transmission and methods of controlling and preventing these diseases  
8 with an emphasis on appropriate behavior and attitude change.

9           2. Within three (3) years of initially assuming office, every deputy coroner  
10           shall be required as a condition of office to take a course of at least four  
11           (4) hours provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training that  
12           shall include instruction on the grieving process and best practices for  
13           providing a notice of death to a spouse or next of kin and may include  
14           instruction on other similar topics, as set out in KRS 64.185(4)(b). A  
15           deputy coroner that has completed the course shall not be required to  
16           retake the course.

17 (b) 1. Any deputy coroner subject to the training requirements of paragraph (a)  
18 of this subsection who fails to complete the mandated training shall be  
19 ineligible to perform the duties of deputy coroner, and may be  
20 terminated by the coroner. The coroner shall make written notification  
21 of the deputy coroner's ineligibility to perform his or her duties to the  
22 deputy coroner and to the fiscal court or the legislative body of the  
23 consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-  
24 county government, or unified local government.

25        2. *The commissioner of the Department of Criminal Justice Training, or the*  
26        *commissioner's designee, may grant the deputy coroner an extension of no*  
27        *more than one hundred eighty (180) days in which to complete the training*

1           requirements of this subsection if there are extenuating circumstances  
2           beyond the control of the deputy coroner that prevent that individual from  
3           completing the training during the required time period. If the deputy  
4           coroner is unable to complete the training due to an injury or illness that  
5           prevents that individual from performing the duties of the deputy coroner,  
6           the one hundred eighty day (180) extension shall begin on the date that the  
7           deputy coroner resumes performing the duties of the deputy coroner. Any  
8           deputy coroner who fails to successfully complete the training within the  
9           time period granted by the extension shall be subject to the consequences set  
10           out in subparagraph 1. of this paragraph. [The deputy coroner shall regain  
11           his or her eligibility upon successful recompletion of the initial basic training  
12           course referenced in KRS 64.185(4), which shall be evidenced by written  
13           certification provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training to the  
14           coroner. Upon receipt of the certification, the coroner shall make written  
15           notification of the reinstatement of eligibility to the deputy coroner and to the  
16           fiscal court or the legislative body of the consolidated local government,  
17           charter county government, urban county government, or unified local  
18           government.]

19           3. The compensation of a deputy coroner who becomes ineligible to  
20           perform his or her duties under subparagraph 1. of this paragraph  
21           shall be modified as follows:

22           a. From the coroner's written notification of ineligibility until the  
23           deputy coroner begins the basic training course mandated by  
24           subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, the deputy coroner shall receive  
25           no compensation;

26           b. From the first day that the deputy coroner begins the basic training  
27           course mandated by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph until written

1 notification of course outcome is received by the coroner, the  
2 deputy coroner shall be compensated at his or her previously  
3 established rate of compensation;

4 e. If the deputy coroner fails the basic training course mandated by  
5 subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, the deputy coroner shall receive  
6 no compensation from the date of receipt of notification of failure  
7 from Department of Criminal Justice Training to the coroner until  
8 the deputy coroner begins anew the basic training course mandated  
9 by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, at which time the deputy  
10 coroner shall be compensated at his or her previously established  
11 rate of compensation; and

12 d. If the deputy coroner successfully completes the basic training  
13 course mandated by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph as  
14 evidenced by written certification provided by the Department of  
15 Criminal Justice Training to the coroner, the deputy coroner shall  
16 receive compensation as is normally determined for deputy  
17 coroners pursuant to statute.]