

**Local Government Mandate Statement  
Kentucky Legislative Research Commission  
2022 Regular Session**

**Part I: Measure Information**

**Bill Request #:** 1007

**Bill #:** SB 66 GA

**Document ID #:** 3994

**Bill Subject/Title:** AN ACT relating to coroners

**Sponsor:** Senator Ralph Alvarado

Unit of Government:  City  County  Urban-County  
Unified Local  
 Charter County  Consolidated Local  Government

Office(s) Impacted: County coroners, fiscal courts

Requirement:  Mandatory  Optional

Effect on  
Powers & Duties:  Modifies Existing  Adds New  Eliminates Existing

**Part II: Bill Provisions and the Estimated Fiscal Impact Relating to Local  
Government**

This ACT may be cited as Nathan's Law.

KRS 64.185 outlines statutory requirements for compensation of coroners and deputy coroners provided the coroner and deputy coroner have received a certificate of continuing education. **Section 1 of SB 66** amends the statute to require a four hour training course on the subject of the grieving process in addition to the certificate of continuing education.

KRS 72.415 outlines the criteria for eligibility to assume office as a coroner or deputy coroner and the powers associated with the office. **Section 2 of SB 66** amends the statute to include the successful completion of a four hour training course on the subject of the grieving process within three years of assuming office.

**Section 3 of SB 66** creates a new section of KRS Chapter 72 to outline procedures for a death notification provided to a spouse or next of kin. The procedures shall be followed if the coroner or deputy coroner has reason to believe the spouse or next of kin have not been

notified of the death and the coroner or deputy coroner are acting under the provisions of KRS 72.450. In addition, the coroner or deputy coroner shall notify the respective coroner's office if the spouse or next of kin resides outside of their jurisdiction. The coroner or deputy coroner who receives this notification shall follow the new procedures to notify the spouse or next of kin if there is reason to believe the spouse or next of kin haven't received a notification. Finally, when providing notification of a decedent's death, the coroner or deputy coroner shall:

1. Schedule the notification at a time and location with available emergency medical assistance.
2. Ensure another member of the coroner's office, peace officer, clergy member, professional grief counselor, or other respected member of the community is available to assist.
3. Provide the notification in person, orally, and respectfully.
4. Assist the recipient of the death notification in notifying others, and remain with the recipient for a practicable length of time or until another person capable of attending to the recipient arrives.
5. Provide information to the recipient of the notification regarding the decedent's remains, contact information for the coroner's office, and information regarding organizations that provide grief counseling.
6. Conduct a follow-up communication within 48 hours of providing the notification.

**The fiscal impact of SB 66 on local government is expected to be negative, but minimal.** Additional labor expenses may be incurred dependent on the salary structure of the local government due to the additional time and personnel needed to satisfy the requirements of **Section 3**. KRS 64.185 establishes a minimum salary only and many local governments have different salary structures which could require additional compensation to complete the one-time training. Offices of the coroners may also incur travel costs associated with the training.

### **Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions**

SB 66 GA keeps the provisions of SB 66 as filed with one change, to modify the length of the training course from eight hours to four hours per SCS 1. **This change does not affect the fiscal impact.**

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff

**Preparer:** K. Sallee **Reviewer:** CHM **Date:** 2/21/22