

HB2616



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2616

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Adam M. Niemerg

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

55 ILCS 5/3-3013

from Ch. 34, par. 3-3013

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that, when a coroner knows or is informed that a death is suspected to be a maternal or fetal death due to an abortion, the coroner shall go to the place where the dead body is located, take charge of the body, and make a preliminary investigation into the circumstances of the death. Effective immediately.

LRB104 10405 RTM 20480 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by changing
5 Section 3-3013 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/3-3013) (from Ch. 34, par. 3-3013)

7 Sec. 3-3013. Preliminary investigations; blood and urine
8 analysis; summoning jury; reports. Every coroner, whenever,
9 as soon as he knows or is informed that the dead body of any
10 person is found, or lying within his county, whose death is
11 suspected of being:

12 (a) A sudden or violent death, whether apparently
13 suicidal, homicidal, or accidental, including, but not
14 limited to, deaths apparently caused or contributed to by
15 thermal, traumatic, chemical, electrical, or radiational
16 injury, or a complication of any of them, or by drowning or
17 suffocation, or as a result of domestic violence as
18 defined in the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986;

19 (b) A maternal or fetal death due to abortion, or any
20 death due to a sex crime;

21 (c) A death where the circumstances are suspicious,
22 obscure, mysterious, or otherwise unexplained or where, in
23 the written opinion of the attending physician, the cause

1 of death is not determined;

2 (d) A death where addiction to alcohol or to any drug
3 may have been a contributory cause; or

4 (e) A death where the decedent was not attended by a
5 licensed physician;

6 shall go to the place where the dead body is and take charge of
7 the same and shall make a preliminary investigation into the
8 circumstances of the death. In the case of death without
9 attendance by a licensed physician, the body may be moved with
10 the coroner's consent from the place of death to a mortuary in
11 the same county. Coroners in their discretion shall notify
12 such physician as is designated in accordance with Section
13 3-3014 to attempt to ascertain the cause of death, either by
14 autopsy or otherwise.

15 In cases of accidental death involving a motor vehicle in
16 which the decedent was (1) the operator or a suspected
17 operator of a motor vehicle, or (2) a pedestrian 16 years of
18 age or older, the coroner shall require that a blood specimen
19 of at least 30 cc., and if medically possible a urine specimen
20 of at least 30 cc. or as much as possible up to 30 cc., be
21 withdrawn from the body of the decedent in a timely fashion
22 after the crash causing his death, by such physician as has
23 been designated in accordance with Section 3-3014, or by the
24 coroner or deputy coroner or a qualified person designated by
25 such physician, coroner, or deputy coroner. If the county does
26 not maintain laboratory facilities for making such analysis,

1 the blood and urine so drawn shall be sent to the Illinois
2 State Police or any other accredited or State-certified
3 laboratory for analysis of the alcohol, carbon monoxide, and
4 dangerous or narcotic drug content of such blood and urine
5 specimens. Each specimen submitted shall be accompanied by
6 pertinent information concerning the decedent upon a form
7 prescribed by such laboratory. Any person drawing blood and
8 urine and any person making any examination of the blood and
9 urine under the terms of this Division shall be immune from all
10 liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred
11 or imposed.

12 In all other cases coming within the jurisdiction of the
13 coroner and referred to in subparagraphs (a) through (e)
14 above, blood, and, whenever possible, urine samples shall be
15 analyzed for the presence of alcohol and other drugs. When the
16 coroner suspects that drugs may have been involved in the
17 death, either directly or indirectly, a toxicological
18 examination shall be performed which may include analyses of
19 blood, urine, bile, gastric contents, and other tissues. When
20 the coroner suspects a death is due to toxic substances, other
21 than drugs, the coroner shall consult with the toxicologist
22 prior to collection of samples. Information submitted to the
23 toxicologist shall include information as to height, weight,
24 age, sex, and race of the decedent as well as medical history,
25 medications used by, and the manner of death of the decedent.

26 When the coroner or medical examiner finds that the cause

1 of death is due to homicidal means, the coroner or medical
2 examiner shall cause blood and buccal specimens (tissue may be
3 submitted if no uncontaminated blood or buccal specimen can be
4 obtained), whenever possible, to be withdrawn from the body of
5 the decedent in a timely fashion. For proper preservation of
6 the specimens, collected blood and buccal specimens shall be
7 dried and tissue specimens shall be frozen if available
8 equipment exists. As soon as possible, but no later than 30
9 days after the collection of the specimens, the coroner or
10 medical examiner shall release those specimens to the police
11 agency responsible for investigating the death. As soon as
12 possible, but no later than 30 days after the receipt from the
13 coroner or medical examiner, the police agency shall submit
14 the specimens using the agency case number to a National DNA
15 Index System (NDIS) participating laboratory within this
16 State, such as the Illinois State Police, Division of Forensic
17 Services, for analysis and categorizing into genetic marker
18 groupings. The results of the analysis and categorizing into
19 genetic marker groupings shall be provided to the Illinois
20 State Police and shall be maintained by the Illinois State
21 Police in the State central repository in the same manner, and
22 subject to the same conditions, as provided in Section 5-4-3
23 of the Unified Code of Corrections. The requirements of this
24 paragraph are in addition to any other findings, specimens, or
25 information that the coroner or medical examiner is required
26 to provide during the conduct of a criminal investigation.

1 In all counties, in cases of apparent suicide, homicide,
2 or accidental death or in other cases, within the discretion
3 of the coroner, the coroner may summon 8 persons of lawful age
4 from those persons drawn for petit jurors in the county. The
5 summons shall command these persons to present themselves
6 personally at such a place and time as the coroner shall
7 determine, and may be in any form which the coroner shall
8 determine and may incorporate any reasonable form of request
9 for acknowledgment which the coroner deems practical and
10 provides a reliable proof of service. The summons may be
11 served by first class mail. From the 8 persons so summoned, the
12 coroner shall select 6 to serve as the jury for the inquest.
13 Inquests may be continued from time to time, as the coroner may
14 deem necessary. The 6 jurors selected in a given case may view
15 the body of the deceased. If at any continuation of an inquest
16 one or more of the original jurors shall be unable to continue
17 to serve, the coroner shall fill the vacancy or vacancies. A
18 juror serving pursuant to this paragraph shall receive
19 compensation from the county at the same rate as the rate of
20 compensation that is paid to petit or grand jurors in the
21 county. The coroner shall furnish to each juror without fee at
22 the time of his discharge a certificate of the number of days
23 in attendance at an inquest, and, upon being presented with
24 such certificate, the county treasurer shall pay to the juror
25 the sum provided for his services.

26 In counties which have a jury commission, in cases of

1 apparent suicide or homicide or of accidental death, the
2 coroner may conduct an inquest. The jury commission shall
3 provide at least 8 jurors to the coroner, from whom the coroner
4 shall select any 6 to serve as the jury for the inquest.
5 Inquests may be continued from time to time as the coroner may
6 deem necessary. The 6 jurors originally chosen in a given case
7 may view the body of the deceased. If at any continuation of an
8 inquest one or more of the 6 jurors originally chosen shall be
9 unable to continue to serve, the coroner shall fill the
10 vacancy or vacancies. At the coroner's discretion, additional
11 jurors to fill such vacancies shall be supplied by the jury
12 commission. A juror serving pursuant to this paragraph in such
13 county shall receive compensation from the county at the same
14 rate as the rate of compensation that is paid to petit or grand
15 jurors in the county.

16 In every case in which a fire is determined to be a
17 contributing factor in a death, the coroner shall report the
18 death to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The coroner
19 shall provide a copy of the death certificate (i) within 30
20 days after filing the permanent death certificate and (ii) in
21 a manner that is agreed upon by the coroner and the State Fire
22 Marshal.

23 In every case in which a drug overdose is officially
24 determined to be the cause or a contributing factor in the
25 death, the coroner or medical examiner shall report the death
26 to the Department of Public Health. The Department of Public

1 Health shall adopt rules regarding specific information that
2 must be reported in the event of such a death, including, at a
3 minimum, the following information, if possible: (i) the cause
4 of the overdose; (ii) whether or not fentanyl was part or all
5 of the consumed substance; (iii) if fentanyl is part of the
6 consumed substance, what other substances were consumed; and
7 (iv) if fentanyl is part of the consumed substance, in what
8 proportion was fentanyl consumed to other substance or
9 substances. The coroner must also communicate whether there
10 was a suspicious level of fentanyl in combination with other
11 controlled substances present to all law enforcement agencies
12 in whose jurisdiction the deceased's body was found in a
13 prompt manner. As used in this paragraph, "overdose" has the
14 same meaning as it does in Section 414 of the Illinois
15 Controlled Substances Act. The Department of Public Health
16 shall issue a semiannual report to the General Assembly
17 summarizing the reports received. The Department shall also
18 provide on its website a monthly report of overdose death
19 figures organized by location, age, and any other factors the
20 Department deems appropriate.

21 In addition, in every case in which domestic violence is
22 determined to be a contributing factor in a death, the coroner
23 shall report the death to the Illinois State Police.

24 All deaths in State institutions and all deaths of wards
25 of the State or youth in care as defined in Section 4d of the
26 Children and Family Services Act in private care facilities or

1 in programs funded by the Department of Human Services under
2 its powers relating to mental health and developmental
3 disabilities or alcoholism and substance abuse or funded by
4 the Department of Children and Family Services shall be
5 reported to the coroner of the county in which the facility is
6 located. If the coroner has reason to believe that an
7 investigation is needed to determine whether the death was
8 caused by maltreatment or negligent care of the ward of the
9 State or youth in care as defined in Section 4d of the Children
10 and Family Services Act, the coroner may conduct a preliminary
11 investigation of the circumstances of such death as in cases
12 of death under circumstances set forth in subparagraphs (a)
13 through (e) of this Section.

14 (Source: P.A. 102-538, eff. 8-20-21; 102-982, eff. 7-1-23;
15 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-842, eff. 1-1-25.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.