

**CS HB 301 (HSS) "Autopsies and Death Certificates"**  
**Sponsor: Representative Herron**

*"An Act relating to duties and procedures of the state medical examiner and the Department of Health and Social Services; and relating to death certificates."*

**Changes from HB 301 [28-LS1196\C] to CSHB 301 (HSS) [""\Y]**

**HB 301 was heard in the House Health and Social Services Committee 2/20, 3/4, and 3/11/2014. Under the committee's direction, the bill saw several changes from initial version \C to current version \Y.**

**1. At \Y page3 lines1-2, language changes to read: "transportation to the community closest to where the death occurred or to another location".** This clarifies that both these options will be clearly laid out in the written notice The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) provides to families working with the State Medical Examiner's office.

**2. At \Y page2, line3, language changes to read: "(3) embalming, if embalming is required by law;"** This change clarifies current statute. Some families have been told by air carriers that they are legally required to have their loved ones' remains embalmed before they can be flown home. This misinterpretation of the law has added cost and stress to many families' experience. This change should increase clarity to transporting businesses and families.

**3. At \Y page2, lines8-15, added language:**

- In (f)(1), recognizes the State Medical Examiner's responsibility and authority to verify the availability of a remote examination site closer to the body's location of death prior to directing a remote examination at that site. In addition, it adds the availability of training to the criteria remote examination sites are required to meet.
- In (f)(2), requires the facility to meet applicable Forensic Autopsy Performance Standards set by the National Association of Medical Examiners.
- In (f)(3), renumbers language already in the bill's current version (requiring DHSS to designate remote examination locations only if the cost associated with utilizing this remote location is less than the cost of examining the body at the ME's office).

**4. Deletes the requirement that DHSS provide temperature and other controls available to maintain remains shipped by air: requirement formerly found at \C page3, lines2-3.** More in-depth consideration found the deleted language would have added more time (approximately two days, in most cases) to the processing of most remains seen in the ME's office. DHSS can answer any questions about current practice and testify to their commitment to continue it.

**5. \C's Sections 3 and 4 have been deleted; \C's Sections 5 and 6 are now \Y's Sections 3 and 4.** These sections were deleted in recognition of DHSS' newly-implemented, more efficient death certificate issuance practices. DHSS can speak to these practices.

**NOTE: All changes above, except #2, were also made in the Senate Finance CS to SB 161. The change in #2 was made to HB 301 by the House HSS Committee, and is supported by the sponsor, DHSS, and known bill supporters.**