

House Bill 50

By: Representatives Channell of the 116th, Hudson of the 124th, and Parham of the 141st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to death investigations by coroners, so as to provide for certain notification
3 requirements when a death occurs in a different county than where the acts or events
4 resulting in the death occurred; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
5 for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 2 of Chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 death investigations by coroners, is amended by revising subsection (f) of Code Section
10 45-16-22, relating to medical examiners' inquiries, as follows:

11 "(f) When death occurs in a hospital as a direct result and consequence of acts or events
12 taking place in a county other than the one in which such death occurs, ~~the body shall be~~
13 ~~returned to the county in which such acts or events took place.~~ the hospital shall:

14 (1) Immediately notify the coroner or the county medical examiner of the county in
15 which the acts or events resulting in the death occurred; and

16 (2) Return the body to the county in which the acts or events resulting in the death
17 occurred.

18 When a dead body is found in a county in which the acts or events leading to death did not
19 occur, it shall be returned to the county in which the acts or events did occur, if known.
20 The coroner or ~~local~~ county medical examiner of the county in which such acts or events
21 took place shall assume jurisdiction and the medical examiner's inquiry, if any performed,
22 shall be paid for from funds of the county in which such acts or events took place."

23 **SECTION 2.**

24 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 45-16-24, relating
25 to notification of suspicious or unusual deaths, as follows:

26 "(a) When any person dies in any county in this state:
27 (1) As a result of violence;
28 (2) By suicide or casualty;
29 (3) Suddenly when in apparent good health;
30 (4) When unattended by a physician;
31 (5) In any suspicious or unusual manner, with particular attention to those persons 16
32 years of age and under;
33 (6) After birth but before seven years of age if the death is unexpected or unexplained;
34 (7) As a result of an execution carried out pursuant to the imposition of the death penalty
35 under Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 17;
36 (8) When an inmate of a state hospital or a state, county, or city penal institution; or
37 (9) After having been admitted to a hospital in an unconscious state and without
38 regaining consciousness within 24 hours of admission,
39 it shall be the duty of any law enforcement officer or other person having knowledge of
40 such death to notify immediately the coroner or county medical examiner of the county
41 ~~wherein in which the acts or events resulting in the death occurred or~~ the body is found ~~or~~
42 ~~death occurs~~. For the purposes of this Code section, no person shall be deemed to have
43 died unattended when the death occurred while the person was a patient of a hospice
44 licensed under Article 9 of Chapter 7 of Title 31."

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SECTION 3.

46 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.