

House Bill 4663
Sponsor: Rep. Kirk A. Profit
Committee: Public Health

Complete to 9-4-91

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4663 AS INTRODUCED 3-27-91

Under the county medical examiners act (Public Act 181 of 1953), when a dead body is found in a county and the person appears to have died a violent, unexpected, or medically unattended death (or died from an abortion, self-induced or otherwise), the county medical examiner is notified. The county medical examiner must take charge of the body and if, he or she decides that a further investigation is warranted, the medical examiner must have the body removed to a morgue, where he or she may perform an autopsy. (The county medical examiner may be required to conduct an investigation if the prosecuting attorney or the attorney general issues a written order or if six county voters file a petition requesting an investigation.)

The bill would amend the act to require that a county medical examiner who had "notice" that the dead person had been killed in another county take charge of the body, notify the county medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred, and either transport the body to a morgue in the county where the death occurred or enter into an agreement with the county in which the death occurred to perform an autopsy. The latter agreement could include provision for payment of reasonable costs associated with the autopsy (including the costs of testimony or evidence regarding the autopsy for litigation or other purposes). If the body were transported to the county in which the death occurred, the medical examiner of that county would be responsible for the body as if it had been found within that county. The county to which the body was transported would be responsible for the costs of transportation.

The bill also would amend the act to require that investigations requested by prosecuting attorneys or attorneys general include autopsies or specific medical tests.

MCL 52.205 and 52.207

House Bill 4663 (9-4-91)