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## AUTOPSIES: COUNTY OF DEATH

House Bill 4439  
Sponsor: Rep. Kirk A. Profit  
Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 11-15-93

### A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4439 AS INTRODUCED 3-4-93

The bill would amend the county medical examiner's act (Public Act 181 of 1953) to allow county medical examiners to enter into agreements that, under certain circumstances, would let them transfer responsibility for dead bodies from one county to another, or, failing such agreements, would require one county to reimburse another for the costs of a medical examiner's investigation.

More specifically, two county medical examiners could agree that the body of someone who had suffered from violence in one county ("the county of origin") and who had died during or after a medical transfer to the other county (the county in which the body was "found") was the responsibility of the medical examiner of the "county of origin" (defined in the bill as the county in which violent or suspicious circumstances occurred which resulted in someone's death).

If such an agreement were reached, the county medical examiner for the county of origin would be responsible for arranging, supervising, and paying for the body to be moved back to a morgue in the county of origin. The medical examiner for the county to which the body had been taken would be responsible for getting the relevant hospital records to the medical examiner for the county of origin.

If an agreement were not reached, the medical examiner of the county where the body was "found" would have to proceed as though the violence or suspicious circumstances that resulted in the death had occurred in his or her county. However, the county of origin would have to reimburse the county where the body was found for the costs of the examination if death had occurred during the medical transfer, in the hospital emergency room, or within 24 hours after admission to the hospital (unless the hospital had performed major surgery involving general anesthesia).

A county medical examiner could not charge more for a reimbursable post-mortem examination of a person from another county than he or she would have charged for examining someone who had died in the medical examiner's county.

MCL 52.205