



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Committee Bill No. 157

LCO No. 3448

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Aging

Introduced by:
(AGE)

AN ACT CREATING AN ELDER DEATH REVIEW BOARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-406 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (a) The Chief Medical Examiner shall investigate all human deaths
5 in the following categories: (1) Violent deaths, whether apparently
6 homicidal, suicidal or accidental, including but not limited to deaths
7 due to thermal, chemical, electrical or radiational injury and deaths
8 due to criminal abortion, whether apparently self-induced or not; (2)
9 sudden or unexpected deaths not caused by readily recognizable
10 disease; (3) deaths under suspicious circumstances; (4) deaths of
11 persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea or otherwise
12 disposed of so as to be thereafter unavailable for examination; (5)
13 deaths related to disease resulting from employment or to accident
14 while employed; (6) deaths related to disease which might constitute a
15 threat to public health; (7) deaths of elderly persons, as defined in
16 section 17b-450, that appear to have been caused by the abuse or
17 neglect of such elderly person. The Chief Medical Examiner may

18 require autopsies in connection with deaths in the preceding categories
19 when it appears warranted for proper investigation and, in the opinion
20 of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, an
21 associate medical examiner or an authorized assistant medical
22 examiner, an autopsy is necessary. The autopsy shall be performed at
23 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or by a designated
24 pathologist at a community hospital. Where indicated, the autopsy
25 shall include toxicologic, histologic, microbiologic and serologic
26 examinations. If a medical examiner has reason to suspect that a
27 homicide has been committed, the autopsy shall be performed at the
28 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or by a designated pathologist in
29 the presence of at least one other designated pathologist if such other
30 pathologist is immediately available. A detailed description of the
31 findings of all autopsies shall be written or dictated during their
32 progress. The findings of the investigation at the scene of death, the
33 autopsy and any toxicologic, histologic, serologic and microbiologic
34 examinations and the conclusions drawn therefrom shall be filed in the
35 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

36 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 19a-407 of the general statutes is
37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
38 *October 1, 2003*):

39 (a) All law enforcement officers, state's attorneys, prosecuting
40 attorneys, other officials, physicians, funeral directors, embalmers,
41 persons required to make reports under section 17b-407 or section 17b-
42 451 and other persons shall promptly notify the Office of the Chief
43 Medical Examiner of any death coming to their attention which is
44 subject to investigation by the Chief Medical Examiner under this
45 chapter, shall assist in making dead bodies and related evidence
46 available to that office for investigations and postmortem
47 examinations, including autopsies, and shall cooperate fully with said
48 office in making the investigations and examinations herein provided
49 for. In conducting such investigations or examinations, the Chief
50 Medical Examiner may issue subpoenas requiring the production of

51 medical reports, records or other documents concerning the death
52 under investigation and compelling the attendance and testimony of
53 any person having pertinent knowledge of such death. The Office of
54 Chief Medical Examiner, within available appropriations, shall
55 establish an elder death review team consisting of the Chief Medical
56 Examiner, physicians and other health care professionals specializing
57 in geriatric medicine, and members of relevant state and local law
58 enforcement and social service agencies to assist in the office's
59 investigation of deaths of elderly persons, as required under section
60 19a-406, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003
Sec. 2	October 1, 2003

AGE

Joint Favorable C/R

PH