



General Assembly

**Amendment**

**July Special Session, 2020**

LCO No. 3811



Offered by:  
REP. STAFSTROM, 129<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6004

File No.

Cal. No.

**"AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY."**

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- 1 Strike section 36 in its entirety and insert the following in lieu thereof:
- 2 "Sec. 36. Section 19a-406 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 3 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):
- 4 (a) The Chief Medical Examiner shall investigate all human deaths in
- 5 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 due
- 8 to criminal abortion, whether apparently self-induced or not; (2) sudden
- 9 or unexpected deaths not caused by readily recognizable disease; (3)
- 10 deaths under suspicious circumstances; (4) deaths of persons whose
- 11 bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea or otherwise disposed of so as
- 12 to be thereafter unavailable for examination; (5) deaths related to disease
- 13 resulting from employment or to accident while employed; (6) deaths
- 14 related to disease which might constitute a threat to public health; and
- 15 (7) any other death, not clearly the result of natural causes, that occurs

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

36 (b) The Chief Medical Examiner shall designate pathologists who are  
37 certified by the Department of Public Health to perform autopsies in  
38 connection with the investigation of any deaths in the categories listed  
39 in subsection (a) of this section. Any deputy chief state's attorney, state's  
40 attorney or assistant state's attorney, including from the Office of the  
41 Inspector General pursuant to section 33 of this act, shall have the right  
42 to require an autopsy by a pathologist so designated in any case in  
43 which there is a suspicion that death resulted from a criminal act. The  
44 official requiring said autopsy shall make a reasonable effort to notify  
45 whichever one of the following persons, eighteen years of age or older,  
46 assumes custody of the body for purposes of burial: Father, mother,  
47 husband, wife, child, guardian, next of kin, friend or any person charged  
48 by law with the responsibility for burial, that said autopsy has been  
49 required, however performance of said autopsy need not be delayed

50 pending such notice.

51 (c) If there are no other circumstances which would appear to require  
52 an autopsy and if the investigation of the circumstances and  
53 examination of the body enable the Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy  
54 Chief Medical Examiner, an associate medical examiner or an  
55 authorized assistant medical examiner to conclude with reasonable  
56 certainty that death occurred from natural causes or obvious traumatic  
57 injury, the medical examiner in charge shall certify the cause of death  
58 and file a report of his findings in the Office of the Chief Medical  
59 Examiner. "