

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Case Studies on Autopsy Procedures

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Overview

This bill directs a professional association representing coroners and medical examiners in Minnesota to conduct case studies of situations in which performing autopsies is controversial, and based on those studies develop standards and procedures to be used in future cases. It also appropriates money to the association to fund these studies.

- 1 Case studies to develop standards for autopsy practice in special cases.** Requires a professional association representing coroners and medical examiners in Minnesota to conduct case studies on controversial autopsy cases, develop standards, and report to the legislature.
Subd. 1. Case studies. Directs a professional association of coroners and medical examiners to conduct 12 or more case studies to examine cases in which performing autopsies is controversial. Using these case studies, directs the association to develop standards for coroners and medical examiners regarding when to perform autopsies in controversial situations, and special methods for performing these autopsies. When these standards and procedures are developed, directs the association to disseminate them to all coroners and medical examiners in Minnesota.
Subd. 2. Report to legislature. Directs the association to report to the legislature by January 15, 2000 on the results of the case studies, the standards and procedures developed, and how this information has been disseminated.
Subd. 3. Data privacy. Makes all data held by the association private data on individuals, and prohibits the standards and procedures for autopsies from containing individually identifiable information.
- 2 Appropriation.** Appropriates \$20,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for a grant to the professional association to conduct the case studies.