

---

HOUSE BILL 1032

---

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Haugen, Ferguson, Cooper, Nealey and Chandler.

Read first time January 16, 1991. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to death investigations; amending RCW 43.103.030,  
2 28B.20.426, and 43.79.445; adding a new section to chapter 68.50 RCW;  
3 and repealing RCW 68.50.030.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 68.50 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 Whenever a coroner or medical examiner assumes jurisdiction over  
8 human remains and directs transportation of those remains by a funeral  
9 establishment, as defined in RCW 18.39.010, the reasonable costs of  
10 transporting shall be borne by the county if: (1) The funeral  
11 establishment transporting the remains is not providing the funeral or  
12 disposition services; or (2) the funeral establishment providing the  
13 funeral or disposition services is required to transport the remains to  
14 a facility other than its own.

1 Except as provided in RCW 36.39.030, 68.52.030, and 73.08.070, any  
2 transportation costs or other costs incurred after the coroner or  
3 medical examiner has released jurisdiction over the human remains shall  
4 not be borne by the county.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.103.030 and 1983 1st ex.s. c 16 s 3 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 There is created the Washington state death investigations council.  
8 The council shall oversee the state toxicology laboratory and, together  
9 with the president of the University of Washington, control the  
10 laboratory's operation. The council may also study and recommend cost-  
11 efficient improvements to the death investigation system in Washington  
12 and report its findings to the legislature.

13 Further, the council shall, jointly with the chairperson of the  
14 pathology department of the University of Washington's School of  
15 Medicine, or the chairperson's designee, oversee the state forensic  
16 pathology fellowship program, determine the budget for the program and  
17 set the fellow's annual salary, and take those steps necessary to  
18 administer the program.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.20.426 and 1986 c 31 s 1 are each amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 (1) A fellowship program in forensic pathology is created in the  
22 school of medicine at the University of Washington. The program shall  
23 provide training for one person per year. The program shall be funded  
24 from funds in the death investigation account of the general fund under  
25 RCW 43.79.445.

26 (2) The fellowship recipient, during the period of his or her  
27 fellowship, shall be available, as soon as his or her level of  
28 expertise warrants it, to the county coroners of the state without

1 charge to perform autopsies, for consultations, and to provide  
2 testimony in court.

3 (3) The forensic pathology fellowship shall be administered  
4 according to the provisions in RCW 43.103.030, as amended.

5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.79.445 and 1986 c 31 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 There is established an account in the state treasury referred to  
8 as the "death investigations' account" which shall exist for the  
9 purpose of receiving, holding, investing, and disbursing funds  
10 appropriated or provided in (~~section 20, chapter 16, Laws of 1983 1st~~  
11 ~~ex. sess.~~) RCW 70.58.107 and any moneys appropriated or otherwise  
12 provided thereafter. All earnings of investments of balances in the  
13 death investigations' account shall be credited to the general fund.

14 Moneys in the death investigations' account shall be disbursed by  
15 the state treasurer once every year on December 31 and at any other  
16 time determined by the treasurer. (~~The above mentioned entities and~~  
17 ~~individuals may submit billings to the state treasurer prior to~~  
18 ~~December 31. The University of Washington may also submit billings for~~  
19 ~~amounts not to exceed thirty five thousand dollars per twelve month~~  
20 ~~period for the fellowship program in forensic pathology under RCW~~  
21 ~~28B.20.426 and the state treasurer shall make such payments for the~~  
22 ~~fellowship program in forensic pathology under RCW 28B.20.426)) The  
23 treasurer shall make disbursements to: The state toxicology  
24 laboratory, counties for the cost of autopsies, the University of  
25 Washington to fund the state forensic pathology fellowship program, the  
26 state patrol for providing partial funding for the state dental  
27 identification system, the criminal justice training commission for  
28 training county coroners, medical examiners and their staff, and the  
29 state death investigations council.~~

1        The University of Washington and the Washington state death  
2 investigations council shall jointly determine the yearly amount for  
3 the state forensic pathology fellowship program established by RCW  
4 28B.20.426.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**        RCW 68.50.030 and 1917 c 90 s 5 are each  
6 repealed.