

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295

Chapter 13, Laws of 2016

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

CORONER'S INQUESTS--VENUE--PAYMENT OF COSTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016

Passed by the Senate February 12, 2016
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 1, 2016
Yeas 75 Nays 22

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved March 10, 2016 10:03 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

Secretary

FILED

March 11, 2016

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6295

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Hasegawa and McCoy)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the venue in which coroner's
2 inquests are to be convened and payment of related costs; and
3 amending RCW 36.24.020.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.24.020 and 2009 c 549 s 4032 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Any coroner, in his or her discretion, may hold an inquest if the
8 coroner suspects that the death of a person was unnatural, or
9 violent, or resulted from unlawful means, or from suspicious
10 circumstances, or was of such a nature as to indicate the possibility
11 of death by the hand of the deceased or through the instrumentality
12 of some other person: PROVIDED, That, except under suspicious
13 circumstances, no inquest shall be held following a traffic death.

14 The coroner in the county where an inquest is to be convened
15 pursuant to this chapter shall notify the superior court to provide
16 persons to serve as a jury of inquest to hear all the evidence
17 concerning the death and to inquire into and render a true verdict on
18 the cause of death. Jurors shall be selected and summoned in the same
19 manner and shall have the same qualifications as specified in chapter
20 2.36 RCW.

1 At the coroner's request, the superior court shall schedule a
2 courtroom in which the inquest may be convened, a bailiff, reporter,
3 and any security deemed reasonably necessary by the coroner. The
4 coroner and the superior court shall set an inquest date by mutual
5 agreement. The inquest shall take place within eighteen months of the
6 coroner's request to the court. If the superior court cannot
7 accommodate the inquest for good cause shown, the court may designate
8 a comparable public venue for the inquest in the county.

9 If the superior court is unable to provide a courtroom or
10 comparable public venue, it shall certify courtroom unavailability in
11 writing within sixty days of the coroner's request and the inquest
12 shall be scheduled and transferred to another county within one
13 hundred miles of the requesting county.

14 The prosecuting attorney having jurisdiction shall be notified in
15 advance of any such inquest to be held, and at his or her discretion
16 may be present at and assist the coroner in the conduct of the same.
17 The coroner may adjourn the inquest from time to time as he or she
18 may deem necessary.

19 The costs of inquests, including any costs incurred by the
20 superior court, shall be borne by the county in which the inquest is
21 ((held)) requested. When an inquest is transferred to another county
22 due to unavailability of a courtroom, the county from which such
23 inquest is transferred shall pay the county in which the inquest is
24 held all costs accrued for per diem and mileage for jurors and
25 witnesses and all other costs properly charged to the transferring
26 county.

Passed by the Senate February 12, 2016.

Passed by the House March 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor March 10, 2016.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 11, 2016.