

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 242

AN ACT

To repeal sections 58.095, 58.451, 58.720, 193.145, and 193.265, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to coroners.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

Section A. Sections 58.095, 58.451, 58.720, 193.145, and 193.265, RSMo, are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 58.035, 58.095, 58.208, 58.451, 58.720, 193.145, and 193.265, to read as follows:

58.035. 1. There is hereby established within the department of health and senior services a "Coroner Standards and Training Commission" which shall be composed of eight members, appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. The governor shall take into account the diversity of the state when making the appointments to this commission. The commission shall consist of:

(1) Two coroners elected from counties of the third classification;

(2) One coroner elected from a county of the first, second, or fourth classification;

(3) One currently appointed medical examiner;

- (4) One child death pathologist;
- (5) One elected prosecuting attorney;
- (6) One elected sheriff;
- (7) The director of the department of health and senior services, or his or her designee, who shall serve as a nonvoting member of the commission.

Each member of the coroner standards and training commission shall have been at the time of his appointment a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state for a period of at least one year, and members who are coroners shall be qualified as established by chapter 58.

2. The members of the commission shall serve for the following terms:

(1) Every member of the commission who holds elected office shall serve an initial term of two years;

(2) Every member of the commission who does not hold elected office shall serve an initial term of four years;

(3) Every member of the commission shall serve for a term of four years after the initial term has been served.

3. Annually the commission shall elect one of the members as chairperson. The coroner standards and training commission shall meet at least twice each year as determined by the director of the department of health and senior services, the chairperson, or a majority of the members to perform its duties. A majority of the members of the coroner standards and training commission shall constitute a quorum.

4. No member of the coroner standards and training

commission shall receive any compensation for the performance of his or her official duties.

5. The coroner standards and training commission shall establish training standards, by rule, relating to the office of county coroner. These standards shall relate to the operation of the office, the legal responsibilities of the office, and the technical skills and knowledge required of the office.

6. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.

7. Once the commission has developed standards, the commission shall issue a report detailing the standards. This report shall be submitted to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of the senate, and shall be published on the website of the department of health and senior services.

58.095. 1. The county coroner in any county[, other than in a first classification chartered county,] not having a charter form of government shall receive an annual salary computed on a basis as set forth in the following schedule. The provisions of

this section shall not permit or require a reduction in the amount of compensation being paid for the office of coroner on January 1, 1997:

Assessed Valuation				Salary
\$	18,000,000	to	40,999,999	\$8,000
	41,000,000	to	53,999,999	8,500
	54,000,000	to	65,999,999	9,000
	66,000,000	to	85,999,999	9,500
	86,000,000	to	99,999,999	10,000
	100,000,000	to	130,999,999	11,000
	131,000,000	to	159,999,999	12,000
	160,000,000	to	189,999,999	13,000
	190,000,000	to	249,999,999	14,000
	250,000,000	to	299,999,999	15,000
	300,000,000	or more		16,000

2. One thousand dollars of the salary authorized in this section shall be payable to the coroner only if the coroner has completed at least twenty hours of classroom instruction each calendar year [relating to the operations of the coroner's office when approved by a professional association of the county coroners of Missouri] as established by the coroner standards and training commission unless exempted from the training by the [professional association] Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association for good cause. The [professional association approving the program] Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association shall provide a certificate of completion to each coroner who completes the training program and shall send a list of certified coroners to the treasurer of each county and

the department of health and senior services. The coroner standards and training commission may certify training programs that satisfy the requirements of this section in lieu of the training provided by the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association. Certified training completion shall be submitted to the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association, which, upon validating the certified training, shall submit the individuals name to the county treasurer and department of health and senior services indicating the individual is compliant with the training requirements. Expenses incurred for attending the training session may be reimbursed to the county coroner in the same manner as other expenses as may be appropriated for that purpose. All elected or appointed coroners, deputy coroners, and assistants to the coroner shall complete the annual training described in this subsection within six months of election or appointment.

3. The county coroner in any county, other than a first classification charter county, shall not, except upon two-thirds vote of all the members of the salary commission, receive an annual compensation in an amount less than the total compensation being received for the office of county coroner in the particular county for services rendered or performed on the date the salary commission votes.

4. For the term beginning in 1997, the compensation of the coroner, in counties in which the salary commission has not voted to pay one hundred percent of the maximum allowable salary, shall be a percentage of the maximum allowable salary established by this section. The percentage applied shall be the same

percentage of the maximum allowable salary received or allowed, whichever is greater, to the presiding commissioner or sheriff, whichever is greater, of that county for the year beginning January 1, 1997. In those counties in which the salary commission has voted to pay one hundred percent of the maximum allowable salary, the compensation of the coroner shall be based on the maximum allowable salary in effect at each time a coroner's term of office commences following the vote to pay one hundred percent of the maximum allowable compensation. Subsequent compensation shall be determined as provided in section 50.333.

5. Effective January 1, 1997, the county coroner in any county[, other than a county of the first classification with a charter form of government,] not having a charter form of government may, upon the approval of the county commission, receive additional compensation for any month during which investigations or other services are performed for three or more decedents in the same incident during such month. The additional compensation shall be an amount that when added to the regular compensation the sum shall equal the monthly compensation of the county sheriff.

58.208. 1. One dollar of the fee collected for any death certificate issued under section 193.265 shall be deposited into the Missouri state coroners' training fund established under subsection 2 of this section. Moneys in such fund shall be used by the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association:

(1) For in-state training, equipment, and necessary supplies; and

(2) To provide aid to training programs approved by the Missouri Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Association.

2. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri State Coroners' Training Fund", which shall consist of moneys collected under subsection 1 of this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of subsection 1 of this section.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund over the amount of five hundred thousand dollars shall revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

3. Local registrars may, during states of emergency or disaster, request reimbursement from the fund for copies of death certificates issued to individuals who are unable to afford the associated fees.

58.451. 1. When any person, in any county in which a coroner is required by section 58.010, dies and there is reasonable ground to believe that such person died as a result of:

- (1) Violence by homicide, suicide, or accident;
- (2) Criminal abortions, including those self-induced;
- (3) Some unforeseen sudden occurrence and the deceased had

not been attended by a physician during the thirty-six-hour period preceding the death;

(4) In any unusual or suspicious manner;

(5) Any injury or illness while in the custody of the law or while an inmate in a public institution;

the police, sheriff, law enforcement officer or official, or any person having knowledge of such a death shall immediately notify the coroner of the known facts concerning the time, place, manner and circumstances of the death. Immediately upon receipt of notification, the coroner or deputy coroner shall take charge of the dead body and fully investigate the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death, including whether by the act of man, and the manner of death. The coroner or deputy coroner may take the names and addresses of witnesses to the death and shall file this information in the coroner's office. The coroner or deputy coroner shall take possession of all property of value found on the body, making exact inventory of such property on the report and shall direct the return of such property to the person entitled to its custody or possession. The coroner or deputy coroner shall take possession of any object or article which, in the coroner's or the deputy coroner's opinion, may be useful in establishing the cause of death, and deliver it to the prosecuting attorney of the county.

2. When a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility, the first licensed medical professional or law enforcement official learning of such death shall immediately contact the county coroner. Immediately upon receipt of such

notification, the coroner or the coroner's deputy shall make the determination if further investigation is necessary, based on information provided by the individual contacting the coroner, and immediately advise such individual of the coroner's intentions.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section to the contrary, when a death occurs under the care of a hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice as a natural death due to disease or diagnosed illness. The hospice shall provide written notice to the coroner within twenty-four hours of the death.

4. Upon taking charge of the dead body and before moving the body the coroner shall notify the police department of any city in which the dead body is found, or if the dead body is found in the unincorporated area of a county governed by the provisions of sections 58.451 to 58.457, the coroner shall notify the county sheriff or the highway patrol and cause the body to remain unmoved until the police department, sheriff or the highway patrol has inspected the body and the surrounding circumstances and carefully noted the appearance, the condition and position of the body and recorded every fact and circumstance tending to show the cause and manner of death, with the names and addresses of all known witnesses, and shall subscribe the same and make such record a part of the coroner's report.

[4.] 5. In any case of sudden, violent or suspicious death after which the body was buried without any investigation or autopsy, the coroner, upon being advised of such facts, may at

the coroner's own discretion request that the prosecuting attorney apply for a court order requiring the body to be exhumed.

[5.] 6. The coroner may certify the cause of death in any case where death occurred without medical attendance or where an attending physician refuses to sign a certificate of death or when a physician is unavailable to sign a certificate of death.

[6.] 7. When the cause of death is established by the coroner, the coroner shall file a copy of the findings in the coroner's office within thirty days.

[7.] 8. If on view of the dead body and after personal inquiry into the cause and manner of death, the coroner determines that a further examination is necessary in the public interest, the coroner on the coroner's own authority may make or cause to be made an autopsy on the body. The coroner may on the coroner's own authority employ the services of a pathologist, chemist, or other expert to aid in the examination of the body or of substances supposed to have caused or contributed to death, and if the pathologist, chemist, or other expert is not already employed by the city or county for the discharge of such services, the pathologist, chemist, or other expert shall, upon written authorization of the coroner, be allowed reasonable compensation, payable by the city or county, in the manner provided in section 58.530. The coroner shall, at the time of the autopsy, record or cause to be recorded each fact and circumstance tending to show the condition of the body and the cause and manner of death.

[8.] 9. If on view of the dead body and after personal

inquiry into the cause and manner of death, the coroner considers a further inquiry and examination necessary in the public interest, the coroner shall make out the coroner's warrant directed to the sheriff of the city or county requiring the sheriff forthwith to summon six good and lawful citizens of the county to appear before the coroner, at the time and place expressed in the warrant, and to inquire how and by whom the deceased died.

[9.] 10. (1) When a person is being transferred from one county to another county for medical treatment and such person dies while being transferred, or dies while being treated in the emergency room of the receiving facility the place which the person is determined to be dead shall be considered the place of death and the county coroner or medical examiner of the county from which the person was originally being transferred shall be responsible for determining the cause and manner of death for the Missouri certificate of death.

(2) The coroner or medical examiner in the county in which the person is determined to be dead may with authorization of the coroner or medical examiner from the original transferring county, investigate and conduct postmortem examinations at the expense of the coroner or medical examiner from the original transferring county. The coroner or medical examiner from the original transferring county shall be responsible for investigating the circumstances of such and completing the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

(3) Such coroner or medical examiner of the county where a

person is determined to be dead shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which the person was originally being transferred of the death of such person, and shall make available information and records obtained for investigation of the death.

(4) If a person does not die while being transferred and is institutionalized as a regularly admitted patient after such transfer and subsequently dies while in such institution, the coroner or medical examiner of the county in which the person is determined to be dead shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which such person was originally transferred of the death of such person. In such cases, the county in which the deceased was institutionalized shall be considered the place of death. If the manner of death is by homicide, suicide, accident, criminal abortion including those that are self-induced, child fatality, or any unusual or suspicious manner, the investigation of the cause and manner of death shall revert to the county of origin, and this coroner or medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

[10.] 11. There shall not be any statute of limitations or time limits on the cause of death when death is the final result or determined to be caused by homicide, suicide, accident, child fatality, criminal abortion including those self-induced, or any unusual or suspicious manner. The place of death shall be the place in which the person is determined to be dead. The final investigation of death in determining the cause and matter of

death shall revert to the county of origin, and the coroner or medical examiner of such county shall be responsible for the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

~~[11.]~~ 12. Except as provided in subsection ~~[9]~~ 10 of this section, if a person dies in one county and the body is subsequently transferred to another county, for burial or other reasons, the county coroner or medical examiner where the death occurred shall be responsible for the certificate of death and for investigating the cause and manner of the death.

~~[12.]~~ 13. In performing the duties, the coroner or medical examiner shall comply with sections 58.775 to 58.785 with respect to organ donation.

58.720. 1. When any person dies within a county having a medical examiner as a result of:

- (1) Violence by homicide, suicide, or accident;
- (2) Thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury;
- (3) Criminal abortions, including those self-induced;
- (4) Disease thought to be of a hazardous and contagious nature or which might constitute a threat to public health; or

when any person dies:

- (a) Suddenly when in apparent good health;
- (b) When unattended by a physician, chiropractor, or an accredited Christian Science practitioner, during the period of thirty-six hours immediately preceding his death;
- (c) While in the custody of the law, or while an inmate in a public institution;
- (d) In any unusual or suspicious manner;

the police, sheriff, law enforcement officer or official, or any person having knowledge of such a death shall immediately notify the office of the medical examiner of the known facts concerning the time, place, manner and circumstances of the death.

Immediately upon receipt of notification, the medical examiner or his designated assistant shall take charge of the dead body and fully investigate the essential facts concerning the medical causes of death. He may take the names and addresses of witnesses to the death and shall file this information in his office. The medical examiner or his designated assistant shall take possession of all property of value found on the body, making exact inventory thereof on his report and shall direct the return of such property to the person entitled to its custody or possession. The medical examiner or his designated assistant shall take possession of any object or article which, in his opinion, may be useful in establishing the cause of death, and deliver it to the prosecuting attorney of the county.

2. When a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility, the first licensed medical professional or law enforcement official learning of such death shall contact the county medical examiner. Immediately upon receipt of such notification, the medical examiner or the medical examiner's deputy shall make a determination if further investigation is necessary, based on information provided by the individual contacting the medical examiner, and immediately advise such individual of the medical examiner's intentions.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 2 of this section to the contrary, when a death occurs under the care of a

hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice as a natural death due to disease or diagnosed illness. The hospice shall provide written notice to the medical examiner within twenty-four hours of the death.

4. In any case of sudden, violent or suspicious death after which the body was buried without any investigation or autopsy, the medical examiner, upon being advised of such facts, may at his own discretion request that the prosecuting attorney apply for a court order requiring the body to be exhumed.

[4.] 5. The medical examiner shall certify the cause of death in any case where death occurred without medical attendance or where an attending physician refuses to sign a certificate of death, and may sign a certificate of death in the case of any death.

[5.] 6. When the cause of death is established by the medical examiner, he shall file a copy of his findings in his office within thirty days after notification of the death.

[6.] 7. (1) When a person is being transferred from one county to another county for medical treatment and such person dies while being transferred, or dies while being treated in the emergency room of the receiving facility, the place which the person is determined to be dead shall be considered the place of death and the county coroner or the medical examiner of the county from which the person was originally being transferred shall be responsible for determining the cause and manner of death for the Missouri certificate of death.

(2) The coroner or medical examiner in the county in which

the person is determined to be dead may, with authorization of the coroner or medical examiner from the transferring county, investigate and conduct postmortem examinations at the expense of the coroner or medical examiner from the transferring county. The coroner or medical examiner from the transferring county shall be responsible for investigating the circumstances of such and completing the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

(3) Such coroner or medical examiner, or the county where a person is determined to be dead, shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which the person was originally being transferred of the death of such person and shall make available information and records obtained for investigation of death.

(4) If a person does not die while being transferred and is institutionalized as a regularly admitted patient after such transfer and subsequently dies while in such institution, the coroner or medical examiner of the county in which the person is determined to be dead shall immediately notify the coroner or medical examiner of the county from which such person was originally transferred of the death of such person. In such cases, the county in which the deceased was institutionalized shall be considered the place of death. If the manner of death is by homicide, suicide, accident, criminal abortion including those that are self-induced, child fatality, or any unusual or suspicious manner, the investigation of the cause and manner of death shall revert to the county of origin, and this coroner or

medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

[7.] 8. There shall not be any statute of limitations or time limits on cause of death when death is the final result or determined to be caused by homicide, suicide, accident, criminal abortion including those self-induced, child fatality, or any unusual or suspicious manner. The place of death shall be the place in which the person is determined to be dead, but the final investigation of death determining the cause and manner of death shall revert to the county of origin, and this coroner or medical examiner shall be responsible for the Missouri certificate of death. The certificate of death shall be filed in the county where the deceased was pronounced dead.

[8.] 9. Except as provided in subsection [6] 7 of this section, if a person dies in one county and the body is subsequently transferred to another county, for burial or other reasons, the county coroner or medical examiner where the death occurred shall be responsible for the certificate of death and for investigating the cause and manner of the death.

[9.] 10. In performing the duties, the coroner or medical examiner shall comply with sections 58.775 to 58.785 with respect to organ donation.

193.145. 1. A certificate of death for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed with the local registrar, or as otherwise directed by the state registrar, within five days after death and shall be registered if such certificate has been completed and filed pursuant to this section. All data providers

in the death registration process, including, but not limited to, the state registrar, local registrars, the state medical examiner, county medical examiners, coroners, funeral directors or persons acting as such, embalmers, sheriffs, attending physicians and resident physicians, physician assistants, assistant physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and the chief medical officers of licensed health care facilities, and other public or private institutions providing medical care, treatment, or confinement to persons, shall be required to use and utilize any electronic death registration system required and adopted under subsection 1 of section 193.265 within six months of the system being certified by the director of the department of health and senior services, or the director's designee, to be operational and available to all data providers in the death registration process. However, should the person or entity that certifies the cause of death not be part of, or does not use, the electronic death registration system, the funeral director or person acting as such may enter the required personal data into the electronic death registration system and then complete the filing by presenting the signed cause of death certification to the local registrar, in which case the local registrar shall issue death certificates as set out in subsection 2 of section 193.265. Nothing in this section shall prevent the state registrar from adopting pilot programs or voluntary electronic death registration programs until such time as the system can be certified; however, no such pilot or voluntary electronic death registration program shall prevent the filing of a death certificate with the local registrar or the ability to obtain

certified copies of death certificates under subsection 2 of section 193.265 until six months after such certification that the system is operational.

2. If the place of death is unknown but the dead body is found in this state, the certificate of death shall be completed and filed pursuant to the provisions of this section. The place where the body is found shall be shown as the place of death. The date of death shall be the date on which the remains were found.

3. When death occurs in a moving conveyance in the United States and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state and the place where the body is first removed shall be considered the place of death. When a death occurs on a moving conveyance while in international waters or air space or in a foreign country or its air space and the body is first removed from the conveyance in this state, the death shall be registered in this state but the certificate shall show the actual place of death if such place may be determined.

4. The funeral director or person in charge of final disposition of the dead body shall file the certificate of death. The funeral director or person in charge of the final disposition of the dead body shall obtain or verify and enter into the electronic death registration system:

(1) The personal data from the next of kin or the best qualified person or source available;

(2) The medical certification from the person responsible for such certification if designated to do so under subsection 5

of this section; and

(3) Any other information or data that may be required to be placed on a death certificate or entered into the electronic death certificate system including, but not limited to, the name and license number of the embalmer.

5. The medical certification shall be completed, attested to its accuracy either by signature or an electronic process approved by the department, and returned to the funeral director or person in charge of final disposition within seventy-two hours after death by the physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, or advanced practice registered nurse in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death. In the absence of the physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, advanced practice registered nurse or with the physician's, physician assistant's, assistant physician's, or advanced practice registered nurse's approval the certificate may be completed and attested to its accuracy either by signature or an approved electronic process by the physician's associate physician, the chief medical officer of the institution in which death occurred, or the physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, provided such individual has access to the medical history of the case, views the deceased at or after death and death is due to natural causes. The person authorized to complete the medical certification may, in writing, designate any other person to enter the medical certification information into the electronic death registration system if the person authorized to complete the medical certificate has physically or by electronic process signed a statement stating the cause of death.

Any persons completing the medical certification or entering data into the electronic death registration system shall be immune from civil liability for such certification completion, data entry, or determination of the cause of death, absent gross negligence or willful misconduct. The state registrar may approve alternate methods of obtaining and processing the medical certification and filing the death certificate. The Social Security number of any individual who has died shall be placed in the records relating to the death and recorded on the death certificate.

6. When death occurs from natural causes more than thirty-six hours after the decedent was last treated by a physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, advanced practice registered nurse, the case shall be referred to the county medical examiner or coroner or physician or local registrar for investigation to determine and certify the cause of death. If the death is determined to be of a natural cause, the medical examiner or coroner or local registrar shall refer the certificate of death to the attending physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, or advanced practice registered nurse for such certification. If the attending physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, advanced practice registered nurse refuses or is otherwise unavailable, the medical examiner or coroner or local registrar shall attest to the accuracy of the certificate of death either by signature or an approved electronic process within thirty-six hours.

7. If the circumstances suggest that the death was caused by other than natural causes, the medical examiner or coroner

shall determine the cause of death and shall [complete and attest to the accuracy], either by signature or an approved electronic process, complete and attest to the accuracy of the medical certification within seventy-two hours after taking charge of the case.

8. If the cause of death cannot be determined within seventy-two hours after death, the attending medical examiner, coroner, attending physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or local registrar shall give the funeral director, or person in charge of final disposition of the dead body, notice of the reason for the delay, and final disposition of the body shall not be made until authorized by the medical examiner, coroner, attending physician, physician assistant, assistant physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or local registrar.

9. When a death is presumed to have occurred within this state but the body cannot be located, a death certificate may be prepared by the state registrar upon receipt of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction which shall include the finding of facts required to complete the death certificate. Such a death certificate shall be marked "Presumptive", show on its face the date of registration, and identify the court and the date of decree.

10. (1) The department of health and senior services shall notify all physicians, physician assistants, assistant physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses licensed under chapters 334 and 335 of the requirements regarding the use of the electronic vital records system provided for in this

section.

(2) On or before August 30, 2015, the department of health and senior services, division of community and public health shall create a working group comprised of representation from the Missouri electronic vital records system users and recipients of death certificates used for professional purposes to evaluate the Missouri electronic vital records system, develop recommendations to improve the efficiency and usability of the system, and to report such findings and recommendations to the general assembly no later than January 1, 2016.

11. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a coroner or deputy coroner is not current with or is without the approved training under chapter 58, the department of health and senior services shall prohibit such coroner from attesting to the accuracy of a certificate of death. No person elected or appointed to the office of coroner can assume such elected office until the training, as established by the coroner standards and training commission under the provisions of section 58.035, has been completed and a certificate of completion has been issued. In the event a coroner cannot fulfill his or her duties or is no longer qualified to attest to the accuracy of a death certificate, the sheriff of the county shall appoint a medical professional to attest death certificates until such time as the coroner can resume his or her duties or another coroner is appointed or elected to the office.

193.265. 1. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of [thirteen] fourteen dollars for the first certification or copy and a fee of

[ten] eleven dollars for each additional copy ordered at that time. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a birth, marriage, divorce, or fetal death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars. No fee shall be required or collected for a certification of birth, death, or marriage if the request for certification is made by the children's division, the division of youth services, a guardian ad litem, or a juvenile officer on behalf of a child or person under twenty-one years of age who has come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under section 211.031. All fees collected under this subsection shall be deposited to the state department of revenue. Beginning August 28, 2004, for each vital records fee collected, the director of revenue shall credit four dollars to the general revenue fund, five dollars to the children's trust fund, one dollar shall be credited to the endowed care cemetery audit fund, [and] one dollar for each certification or copy of death records to the Missouri state coroners' training fund established in section 58.208, three dollars for the first copy of death records and five dollars for birth, marriage, divorce, and fetal death records shall be credited to the Missouri public services health fund established in section 192.900. Money in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall be available by appropriation to the division of professional registration to pay its expenses in administering sections 214.270 to 214.410. All interest earned on money deposited in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall be credited to the endowed care cemetery fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, money placed in the endowed care cemetery audit fund shall not be transferred and

placed to the credit of general revenue until the amount in the fund at the end of the biennium exceeds three times the amount of the appropriation from the endowed care cemetery audit fund for the preceding fiscal year. The money deposited in the public health services fund under this section shall be deposited in a separate account in the fund, and moneys in such account, upon appropriation, shall be used to automate and improve the state vital records system, and develop and maintain an electronic birth and death registration system. For any search of the files and records, when no record is found, the state shall be entitled to a fee equal to the amount for a certification of a vital record for a five-year search to be paid by the applicant. For the processing of each legitimation, adoption, court order or recording after the registrant's twelfth birthday, the state shall be entitled to a fee equal to the amount for a certification of a vital record. Except whenever a certified copy or copies of a vital record is required to perfect any claim of any person on relief, or any dependent of any person who was on relief for any claim upon the government of the state or United States, the state registrar shall, upon request, furnish a certified copy or so many certified copies as are necessary, without any fee or compensation therefor.

2. For the issuance of a certification of a death record by the local registrar, the applicant shall pay a fee of [thirteen] fourteen dollars for the first certification or copy and a fee of [ten] eleven dollars for each additional copy ordered at that time. For each fee collected under this subsection, one dollar shall be deposited to the state department of revenue and the

remainder shall be deposited to the official city or county health agency. The director of revenue shall credit all fees deposited to the state department of revenue under this subsection to the Missouri state coroners' training fund established in section 58.208.

3. For the issuance of a certification or copy of a birth, marriage, divorce, or fetal death record, the applicant shall pay a fee of fifteen dollars; except that, in any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants, a donation of one dollar may be collected by the local registrar over and above any fees required by law when a certification or copy of any marriage license or birth certificate is provided, with such donations collected to be forwarded monthly by the local registrar to the county treasurer of such county and the donations so forwarded to be deposited by the county treasurer into the housing resource commission fund to assist homeless families and provide financial assistance to organizations addressing homelessness in such county. The local registrar shall include a check-off box on the application form for such copies. All fees collected under this subsection, other than the donations collected in any county with a charter form of government and with more than six hundred thousand but fewer than seven hundred thousand inhabitants for marriage licenses and birth certificates, shall be deposited to the official city or county health agency.

4. A certified copy of a death record by the local registrar can only be issued within twenty-four hours of receipt

of the record by the local registrar. Computer-generated certifications of death records may be issued by the local registrar after twenty-four hours of receipt of the records. The fees paid to the official county health agency shall be retained by the local agency for local public health purposes.