

1975 Assembly Bill 188

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CHAPTER 294, Laws of 1975

AN ACT to amend 59.365 (1) and 979.14; and to create 979.20 (4) of the statutes, relating to coroner's compensation, appointment of deputy coroners and coroner approval of autopsies in cases of unusual circumstances.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 59.365 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

59.365 (1) Within ~~ten~~ 10 days after entering upon the duties of his office, the coroner may appoint ~~some one or more proper person, resident persons, residents~~ of his county, deputy coroner. Such ~~deputy deputies~~ shall reside in the county for which ~~he is~~ they are appointed. The coroner may fill vacancies in the office of any such ~~appointee appointees~~, and may appoint a person to take the place of ~~such~~ any deputy who becomes incapable of executing the duties of his office. A person appointed deputy coroner for a regular term or to fill a vacancy or otherwise shall hold office during the pleasure of the coroner. Every appointment of a deputy coroner and every revocation of such appointment shall be in writing and filed and recorded in the office of the clerk of the circuit court. In case of a vacancy in the office of coroner, the chief deputy coroner shall in all things and with like liabilities and penalties execute the duties of such office until the vacancy is filled as provided by law.

SECTION 2. 979.14 of the statutes is amended to read:

979.14 Compensation of officers; witness fees. The sole compensation of the coroner and deputy coroners for taking inquest or making an investigation to determine the necessity to take inquest shall be ~~\$16~~ a sum set by the county board for each day actually and necessarily required for the purpose, and ~~40 cents a sum set by the county board~~ for each mile actually and necessarily traveled in performing such duty. Any coroner or deputy coroner may be paid an annual salary and allowance for traveling expenses to be established by the county board pursuant to s. 59.15 which shall be in lieu of all fees, per diem and compensation for services rendered. The compensation of constables and witnesses at such inquest shall be the same as is allowed for like services in county court, and the compensation of jurors shall be the same as that for jurors under s. 255.25.

SECTION 3. 979.20 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

979.20 (4) No person may embalm or perform an autopsy on the body of any person who has died under any of the circumstances listed in this section unless he obtains the written authorization of the coroner of the county in which the injury or cause of death occurred. Such authorization shall be issued by the coroner or his deputy within 12 hours after notification of the reportable death, or as soon thereafter as possible in the event of unexplained, unusual or suspicious circumstances.