

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1123

By: Burns, Hamilton, and
Bullard of the Senate

3 and

4 West (Rick) of the House

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7 An Act relating to medicolegal investigations;
8 amending 63 O.S. 2021, Section 940, which relates to
9 notification of deaths; modifying inclusions of
certain authorization; and providing an effective
date.

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12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2021, Section 940, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 940. A. All law enforcement officers and other state
16 and county officials shall cooperate with the Chief Medical Examiner
17 and all other medical examiners in making investigations required
18 pursuant to the provisions of Sections 931 through 954 of this
19 title. ~~Said~~ The officials and the physician in attendance of the
20 deceased, or other persons when the deceased was unattended by a
21 physician, shall promptly notify the medical examiner of the
22 occurrence of all deaths coming to their attention which, pursuant
23 to the provisions of Sections 931 through 954 of this title, are
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1 subject to investigation, and shall assist in making dead bodies and
2 related evidence available for investigation.

3 Subject to the provisions of Sections 931 through 954 of this
4 title, bodies shall not be disturbed until authorized by the Chief
5 Medical Examiner or his or her designee and the representative of
6 any law enforcement agency which has begun an investigation of the
7 cause of death. ~~Said~~ The authorization may be given by telephone.
8 Nothing in Sections 931 through 954 of this title shall prevent the
9 district attorney, or his or her designee, or the responding law
10 enforcement officer from authorizing the removal of a body when the
11 removal is determined to be in the public interest and conditions at
12 the scene are adequately documented and preserved by photographs and
13 measurements.

14 B. The death of any patient, inmate, ward, or veteran in a
15 state hospital or other institution shall be reported by the chief
16 administrative officer of the hospital or institution or his or her
17 designee to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner at the time of
18 the death and prior to release of the body.

19 1. Within thirty-six (36) hours, a written report shall be
20 submitted and shall be accompanied by true and correct copies of all
21 medical records of the hospital or institution concerning the
22 deceased patient.

23 2. The Chief Medical Examiner shall have the authority to
24 require production of any records, documents, or equipment or other

items regarding the deceased patient deemed necessary to investigate the death.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

Passed the Senate the 22nd day of March, 2022.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2022.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives