



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Matthew Magner

### H.B. 482

130th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Redfern, Patterson, Rogers, Fedor, Budish, Pillich, Heard, O'Brien, Ashford, Carney, Mallory, Boyd, Bishoff, Stinziano, Winburn, Barborak, Foley, Gerberry, Sheehy, Reece, Ramos, Antonio, Clyde, Williams, Slesnick, Letson, R. Hagan, Celebrezze, Phillips, Cera, Lundy

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Requires newly elected and appointed coroners to attend at least one hour of continuing education that focuses on suicide investigations.
- Requires a coroner or a deputy coroner to go to a dead body and take charge of it when the manner of death appears to have been by suicide.
- Requires a coroner, deputy coroner, or pathologist to perform an autopsy if the deceased person's manner of death appears to have been by suicide.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Continuing education to include suicide investigations

The bill revises the continuing education requirements for newly elected and appointed coroners by requiring the completion of a program focusing on suicide investigations. Under continuing law, a newly elected coroner must complete 16 hours of continuing education after the general election but prior to commencing the term of office, and a newly appointed coroner must complete 16 hours of continuing education within 90 days after appointment. The bill requires one of those hours to focus on how suicide investigations are conducted. That hour of continuing education is to be conducted by personnel from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 313.02(B)(1).

## Taking charge of a dead body

The bill specifies which individuals have the authority to take charge of a dead body when the manner of death appears to have been by suicide. Under current law, except in the case of an automobile accident, a coroner, deputy coroner, appointed investigator, or any other person designated by the coroner is permitted to go to a dead body and take charge of it. Under the bill, when a coroner's office has been notified that the manner of death appears to have been by suicide, the coroner, or, in the coroner's absence, the deputy coroner, is required to go to a dead body and take charge of it.<sup>2</sup>

## Autopsies in cases of suicide

The bill expands the situations in which an autopsy must be performed to include apparent suicides. Under current law, a coroner, deputy coroner, or pathologist is required to perform an autopsy only if, in the opinion of the coroner, or, in the coroner's absence, in the opinion of the deputy coroner, an autopsy is necessary, unless the coroner is informed or has reason to believe that an autopsy is contrary to the deceased person's religious beliefs. The bill requires a coroner, deputy coroner, or pathologist to perform an autopsy if the manner of death appears to have been by suicide, unless the coroner is informed or has reason to believe that an autopsy is contrary to the deceased person's religious beliefs.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-18-14

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 313.13.

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 313.131(B).

