

FEB 2 1999  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 176  
BY CARROLL

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the reimbursement of fees and expenses  
2 associated with the state medical examiner's performance of  
3 certain duties relating to a death that affects the public  
4 interest.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 176

1 Section 1. Section 331.802, subsection 2, Code 1999, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. If a person's death affects the public interest, the  
4 county medical examiner shall conduct a preliminary  
5 investigation of the cause and manner of death, prepare a  
6 written report of the findings, promptly submit the full  
7 report to the state medical examiner on forms prescribed for  
8 that purpose, and submit a copy of the report to the county  
9 attorney. For each preliminary investigation and the  
10 preparation and submission of the required reports, the county  
11 medical examiner shall receive from the county of appointment  
12 a fee determined by the board plus the examiner's actual  
13 expenses. The fee and expenses paid by the county of  
14 appointment shall be reimbursed to the county of appointment  
15 by the county of the person's residence. If the state medical  
16 examiner performs the functions of the county medical examiner  
17 under this subsection for which the county medical examiner  
18 would receive a fee and expenses, the county of the person's  
19 residence shall pay the fee and expenses of the state medical  
20 examiner. However, if the person's death is caused by a  
21 defendant for whom a judgment of conviction and sentence is  
22 rendered under section 707.2, 707.3, 707.4, 707.5, or 707.6A,  
23 the county of the person's residence may recover from the  
24 defendant the fee and expenses. The fee and expenses of the  
25 county medical examiner who performs an autopsy or conducts an  
26 investigation of a person who dies after being brought into  
27 this state for emergency medical treatment by or at the  
28 direction of an out-of-state law enforcement officer or public  
29 authority shall be paid by the state. A claim for payment  
30 shall be filed with the Iowa department of public health.

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill provides that if the state medical examiner  
33 performs the duties of a county medical examiner in the case  
34 of a person's death which affects the public interest, the  
35 state medical examiner's fees and expenses associated with

1 these duties are to be reimbursed by the county of the  
2 person's residence as is currently the case if the county  
3 medical examiner performs these duties.

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