

House File 2446 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2446

BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 530)

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 159)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to county medical examiner fees.

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

1 Section 1. Section 331.802, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. (1) Except as provided in [section 218.64](#) or as otherwise
4 provided by law, for each preliminary investigation and the
5 preparation and submission of the required reports, the county
6 medical examiner and medical examiner investigator shall
7 receive from the county of appointment or the decedent's county
8 of residence a fee determined by the board of the county of
9 appointment plus the examiner's and investigator's actual
10 expenses.

11 (2) The fee and expenses ~~paid by~~ shall be submitted by the
12 county medical examiner and the medical examiner investigator
13 as a joint invoice to the county of appointment shall be
14 ~~reimbursed to the county of appointment by the county of the~~
15 ~~person's residence which may immediately pay the invoice. If~~
16 the county of appointment pays the invoice, the county of
17 appointment shall seek reimbursement from the decedent's county
18 of residence.

19 (3) If the county of appointment elects not to pay an
20 invoice under subparagraph (2), the county shall forward
21 the joint invoice to the decedent's county of residence for
22 payment to the county medical examiner and the medical examiner
23 investigator. If the county medical examiner and medical
24 examiner investigator do not receive payment from the county
25 of the decedent's residence within sixty days of receiving the
26 joint invoice, the county of appointment shall pay the invoice.

27 (4) ~~However, if~~ If the person's death is caused by a
28 defendant for whom a judgment of conviction and sentence
29 is rendered under [section 707.2, 707.3, 707.4, 707.5, or](#)
30 [707.6A](#), the county of the person's residence or the county of
31 appointment, as applicable, may recover from the defendant the
32 fee and expenses.

33

EXPLANATION

34 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
35 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

1 This bill relates to county medical examiner fees.

2 Under current law, a county medical examiner conducting an
3 investigation and preparing reports related to a death that
4 affects the public interest is required to receive a fee and
5 reimbursement for expenses from the county appointing the
6 medical examiner, and the decedent's county of residence is
7 required to reimburse the county of appointment.

8 Under the bill, either the county of appointment or the
9 decedent's county of residence is required to pay such fees
10 and expenses to the county medical examiner (examiner) and the
11 medical examiner investigator (investigator), based upon a
12 joint invoice. Under the bill, the examiner and investigator
13 are required to submit a joint invoice to the appointing
14 county. The appointing county may pay the joint invoice and
15 seek reimbursement from the decedent's county of residence
16 or the appointing county may forward the unpaid invoice to
17 the decedent's county of residence. If the decedent's county
18 of residence does not pay the invoice within 60 days, the
19 appointing county is required to pay the invoice.

20 The bill maintains provisions allowing the decedent's county
21 of residence to recover the fee and expense costs paid from
22 individuals convicted of causing the death, and extends the
23 provision to also allow appointing counties to recover such
24 costs, if applicable.