AN ACT relating to coroners.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 64.185 is amended to read as follows:

(1) (a) Coroners shall receive out of the county, consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government treasury, whichever is appropriate, the monthly compensation the fiscal court of each county shall fix, subject to the following minimums:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population</th>
<th>Monthly Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 10,000 or less</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 10,001 to 20,000</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 20,001 to 40,000</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 40,001 to 60,000</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 60,001 to 100,000</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 100,001 to 150,000</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 150,001 or more</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Coroners who hold a current certificate of continuing education, issued jointly by the Department of Criminal Justice Training, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and the Office of the Kentucky State Medical Examiner, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and who have completed the course described in subsection (4)(b) of this section, shall be paid the following minimum monthly compensation set forth in this subsection in recognition of the training:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population</th>
<th>Monthly Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 10,000 or less</td>
<td>$400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 10,001 to 20,000</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) Deputy coroners who hold a current certificate of continuing education, as described in subsection (1)(b) of this section, and have completed the course described in subsection (4)(b) of this section, shall receive out of the county, consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government treasury, whichever is appropriate, the monthly compensation the fiscal court of each county shall fix, subject to the following minimums:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population</th>
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<tr>
<td>10,000 or less</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001 to 20,000</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,001 to 40,000</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40,001 to 60,000</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60,001 to 100,000</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,001 to 150,000</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150,001 or more</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) The fiscal court of any county, or the legislative body of a consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government may compensate coroners and deputy coroners an additional amount of up to three hundred dollars ($300) per month as an expense allowance.

(4) (a) The initial course of continuing education required under subsection (1)(b) of this section shall consist of a forty (40) hour basic training course prescribed by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Annually thereafter the coroner shall
attend and successfully complete at least eighteen (18) hours of approved training in order to be compensated in accordance with subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(b) Within three (3) years of initially assuming office, in order to be compensated in accordance with subsections (1)(b) and (2) of this section, a coroner or deputy coroner shall attend and complete a course of at least eight (8) hours provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training that shall include instruction on the grieving process and best practices for providing a notice of death to a spouse or next of kin and may include instruction on other similar topics. A coroner or deputy coroner that has completed the course shall not be required to retake the course.

(5) If a deputy coroner assumes the office of coroner after receiving the training stipulated in this section, the deputy coroner shall be compensated in accordance with the compensation schedule set forth in subsection (1)(b) of this section.

(6) The number of deputy coroners in a county shall not exceed one (1) for each twenty-five thousand (25,000) inhabitants, or fraction thereof, according to the most recent federal census, but every coroner may, subject to the approval of the legislative body of the county, consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government, appoint additional deputy coroners, regardless of population.

Section 2. KRS 72.415 is amended to read as follows:

(1) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of KRS 72.410 to 72.470, coroners and deputy coroners shall have the full power and authority of peace officers in this state, including the power of arrest and the authority to bear arms, and shall have the power and authority to:

(a) Administer oaths;

(b) Enter upon public or private premises for the purpose of making
investigations;

(c) Seize evidence;

(d) Interrogate persons;

(e) Require the production of medical records, books, papers, documents, or other evidence;

(f) Impound vehicles involved in vehicular deaths;

(g) Employ special investigators and photographers; and

(h) Expend funds for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of KRS 72.410 to 72.470.

The fiscal court or urban-county government shall pay all reasonable expenses incurred by the coroner and his deputy in carrying out his responsibilities under the provisions of KRS 72.410 to 72.470.

(2) (a) No person shall be eligible to hold the office of deputy coroner unless he holds a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent. Every deputy coroner, other than a licensed physician, shall be required as a condition of office to take during every calendar year he or she is in office the training course of at least eighteen (18) hours provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training or other courses approved by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet after having completed the basic training course the first year of employment. The training course shall include material developed by the cabinet and approved by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services on the human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. The material shall include information on known modes of transmission and methods of controlling and preventing these diseases with an emphasis on appropriate behavior and attitude change.

2. Within three (3) years of initially assuming office, every deputy
coroner shall be required as a condition of office to take a course of at least eight (8) hours provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training that shall include instruction on the grieving process and best practices for providing a notice of death to a spouse or next of kin and may include instruction on other similar topics, as set out in subsection (4)(b) of Section 1 of this Act. A deputy coroner that has completed the course shall not be required to retake the course.

(b) 1. Any deputy coroner subject to the training requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection who fails to complete the mandated training shall be ineligible to perform the duties of deputy coroner, and may be terminated by the coroner. The coroner shall make written notification of the deputy coroner's ineligibility to perform his or her duties to the deputy coroner and to the fiscal court or the legislative body of the consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government.

2. The deputy coroner shall regain his or her eligibility upon successful recompletion of the initial basic training course referenced in KRS 64.185(4), which shall be evidenced by written certification provided by the Department of Criminal Justice Training to the coroner. Upon receipt of the certification, the coroner shall make written notification of the reinstatement of eligibility to the deputy coroner and to the fiscal court or the legislative body of the consolidated local government, charter county government, urban-county government, or unified local government.

3. The compensation of a deputy coroner who becomes ineligible to perform his or her duties under subparagraph 1. of this paragraph shall be modified as follows:
a. From the coroner's written notification of ineligibility until the
deputy coroner begins the basic training course mandated by
subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, the deputy coroner shall receive
no compensation;

b. From the first day that the deputy coroner begins the basic training
course mandated by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph until written
notification of course outcome is received by the coroner, the
deputy coroner shall be compensated at his or her previously
established rate of compensation;

c. If the deputy coroner fails the basic training course mandated by
subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, the deputy coroner shall receive
no compensation from the date of receipt of notification of failure
from Department of Criminal Justice Training to the coroner until
the deputy coroner begins anew the basic training course mandated
by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph, at which time the deputy
coroner shall be compensated at his or her previously established
rate of compensation; and

d. If the deputy coroner successfully completes the basic training
course mandated by subparagraph 2. of this paragraph as
evidenced by written certification provided by the Department of
Criminal Justice Training to the coroner, the deputy coroner shall
receive compensation as is normally determined for deputy
coroners pursuant to statute.

SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 72 IS CREATED TO
READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) A coroner shall follow the provisions of subsection (3) of this section relating to
notification of a spouse, if any, or next of kin, when the coroner has reason to
believe that the spouse, if any, or next of kin has not yet been notified of the
decedent’s death, and:

(a) A coroner is acting under the provisions of KRS 72.450 and has reason to
believe that the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent resides in the
coroner’s jurisdiction; or

(b) A coroner has received notification from another official that a spouse, if
any, or next of kin of a decedent resides in the coroner’s jurisdiction.

(2) A coroner shall not be required to follow the provisions of subsection (3) of this
section when the coroner is acting under the provisions of KRS 72.450, but has
reason to believe that the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent resides
outside of the coroner’s jurisdiction. In that event, the coroner shall only be
required to contact the coroner or other official responsible for providing
notification in that jurisdiction regarding the decedent’s death.

(3) When providing notification to the spouse, if any, or next of kin of a decedent
regarding the decedent’s death, the coroner shall:

(a) Notify, through non-emergency means, an entity capable of providing
emergency medical assistance that a notification is planned to take place,
provide the location where the notification is planned to take place, and
request that the entity remain on standby during the pendency of the
notification;

(b) Arrange for another member of the coroner’s office, or, if no other member
is available, a law enforcement officer, member of the clergy, professional
grief counselor, or other respected member of the community, to assist, in
person, in providing the notification;

(c) Provide the notification orally, in person, and in a respectful manner;

(d) Assist the recipient of the death notification in contacting family or friends,
and, in the event that the recipient is alone, remain with the recipient of the
notification for as long as practicable or until a friend, family member, or
other person is able to arrive and attend to the recipient;

(e) Provide information to the recipient of the notification regarding the
handling of the decedent's remains, contact information for the coroner's
office, and information regarding organizations that provide grief
counseling; and

(f) Conduct a follow-up communication with the recipient of the notification
within forty-eight (48) hours of providing the notification.

➤ Section 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act take effect January 1, 2023.

➤ Section 5. A coroner or deputy coroner serving on January 1, 2023, may
continue being compensated under the provisions of Section 1 of this Act if he or she
completes the course described in subsection (4)(b) of Section 1 of this Act by January 1,
2026. No deputy coroner shall have his or her employment status changed for failure to
complete the course described in subsection (4)(b) of Section 1 of this Act prior to
January 1, 2026.

➤ Section 6. This Act may be cited as Nathan's Law.