

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL**  
**No. 1371** Session of  
1983

INTRODUCED BY SWEET, DALEY, McVERRY, COLAFELLA, ALDERETTE,  
VAN HORNE, BURD, SALOOM, ANGSTADT, KOWALYSHYN, FISCHER,  
PHILLIPS, BELFANTI, PICCOLA, SEMMEL, COY, STUBAN, WOZNIAK AND  
HALUSKA, JULY 21, 1983

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JULY 21, 1983

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled  
2 "An act relating to counties of the third, fourth, fifth,  
3 sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising,  
4 consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto,"  
5 further providing for coroner's investigations.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Section 1237 of the act of August 9, 1955  
9 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code is amended to read:

10 Section 1237. Coroner's Investigations.--The coroner [having  
11 a view of the body] of the county where the cause appears to  
12 have occurred shall investigate the facts and circumstances  
13 concerning [deaths which appear to have happened within the  
14 county, regardless where the cause thereof may have occurred,]  
15 the death for the purpose of determining whether or not an  
16 inquest thereof should be had, in the following cases: (1) Any  
17 sudden, as hereafter defined, violent or suspicious death, (2)  
18 any death wherein no cause of death is properly certified by a

1 person duly authorized therefor, (3) any death resulting from a  
2 mine accident, as directed by law, (4) deaths resulting from  
3 drownings, cave-ins and subsidences, (5) any stillbirth, or the  
4 death of any baby dying within twenty-four hours after its  
5 birth, and, in addition thereto, (6) the death of any  
6 prematurely born infant, wherein the cause of death is not  
7 properly certified by a person duly authorized therefor.

8       The purpose of the investigation shall be to determine  
9 whether or not there is any reason sufficient to the coroner to  
10 believe that any such death may have resulted from the criminal  
11 acts or criminal neglect of persons other than the deceased,  
12 rather than from natural causes or by suicide.

13       Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.