

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1242 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY FAJT, LEVDANSKY, PRESTON, PISTELLA, PETRONE,
CESSAR, MARKOSEK, DERMODY, MURPHY, MICHLOVIC AND KAISER,
APRIL 22, 1991

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, APRIL 22, 1991

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), entitled,
2 as amended, "An act relating to counties of the second class
3 and second class A; amending, revising, consolidating and
4 changing the laws relating thereto," abolishing the office of
5 elected coroner and creating the position of county medical
6 examiner in counties of the second class.

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

9 Section 1. Section 401(a) of the act of July 28, 1953
10 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code,
11 amended November 27, 1968 (P.L.1114, No.346), is amended to
12 read:

13 Section 401. Enumeration of Elected Officers.--(a) In the
14 county there shall be the following officers elected by the
15 qualified electors of the county:

- 16 (1) three county commissioners;
17 (2) one controller;
18 (3) one treasurer;
19 (4) one coroner in counties of the second class A;

- 1 (5) one recorder of deeds;
- 2 (6) one prothonotary;
- 3 (7) one clerk of the court of quarter sessions and of the
- 4 court of oyer and terminer;
- 5 (8) one register of wills;
- 6 (9) one sheriff;
- 7 (10) one district attorney;
- 8 (11) two jury commissioners.

9 * * *

10 Section 2. Sections 420 and 431 of the act are amended to
11 read:

12 Section 420. Official Bonds; Requirements.--Each of the
13 following officers, before entering upon his official duties,
14 whether he is elected, appointed or appointed to fill a vacancy,
15 shall give and acknowledge a bond to the county:

- 16 (1) Each county commissioner;
- 17 (2) The chief clerk of the county commissioners;
- 18 (3) The controller;
- 19 (4) The county treasurer;
- 20 (5) The prothonotary;
- 21 (6) The sheriff;
- 22 (7) The coroner or medical examiner;
- 23 (8) The clerk of the court of quarter sessions and oyer and
- 24 terminer;
- 25 (9) The clerk of the orphans' court;
- 26 (10) The recorder of deeds; and
- 27 (11) The probation and parole officers required by order of
- 28 court to give bond to the county.

29 Every such official bond shall be joint and several, with one
30 or more corporate sureties which shall be surety companies

1 authorized to do business in this Commonwealth and duly licensed
2 by the Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth.

3 Section 431. Amount of Official Bonds.--The amount of the
4 bond to be given by county officers shall be as follows:

5 Of the clerk of the courts of oyer and terminer and general
6 jail delivery and courts of quarter sessions of the peace, ten
7 thousand dollars.

8 Of the county commissioners, ten thousand dollars each.

9 Of the county controller, fifty thousand dollars.

10 Of the coroner or medical examiner, fifteen thousand dollars.

11 Of the register of wills, thirty thousand dollars.

12 Of the prothonotary, forty thousand dollars.

13 Of the recorder of deeds, twenty thousand dollars.

14 Of the sheriff, sixty thousand dollars.

15 Of the county treasurer, two hundred thousand dollars.

16 Section 3. Section 434 of the act, amended September 28,
17 1978 (P.L.798, No.153), is amended to read:

18 Section 434. Deputies and Solicitors May Attend Annual
19 Meetings.--The deputy controller, the deputy sheriff, the deputy
20 register of wills, the deputy treasurer, the deputy
21 prothonotary, the deputy clerk of courts, the deputy recorder of
22 deeds, the deputy clerk of orphans' court, the first assistant
23 district attorney, one assistant public defender and the chief
24 deputy coroner or medical examiner, with the approval of his
25 principal and the solicitor for each office may attend the
26 annual meetings of his respective associations, either together
27 with the controller, sheriff, register of wills, prothonotary,
28 clerk of courts, recorder of deeds, district attorney, public
29 defender, coroner or medical examiner or treasurer, as the case
30 may be, or in his place.

Section 4. Section 450(a) of the act, amended November 27, 1968 (P.L.1114, No.346), is amended to read:

Section 450. Removal of County Officers and Appointees.--(a) The county commissioners, the sheriffs, coroners in counties of the second class A, prothonotaries, registers of wills, recorders of deeds, treasurers, controllers, clerks of the courts, district attorneys, and any other officers of the county, whether elected or duly appointed to fill a vacancy, shall be removable from office only by impeachment, or by the Governor, for reasonable cause, after due notice and full hearing, on the advice of two-thirds of the Senate, or upon conviction of misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime, in accordance with the Constitution of this Commonwealth, but their title to office may be tried by proceedings of quo warranto as provided by law.

* * *

Section 5. The heading of Article XII of the act is amended and the article is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Article XII

Sheriff [and], Coroner and County Medical Examiner

* * *

(c) Second Class County Medical Examiner

Section 1261. County Medical Examiner.--(a) The office of county medical examiner is hereby created in counties of the second class.

(b) The office of county medical examiner shall be headed by the county medical examiner who shall be appointed by the county commissioners.

(c) The present coroner shall, upon the effective date of this section, be the county medical examiner and shall serve in

accordance with the terms and conditions of this subdivision.

(d) (1) Upon a vacancy in the position of county medical examiner, the county commissioners shall appoint a County Medical Examiner Selection Committee. This committee shall be comprised of seven members as follows:

(i) One member shall be the district attorney of the county.

(ii) One member shall be the Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Public Health or his designee.

(iii) One member shall be the Chairman of the Department of Forensic Psychiatry of the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic or his designee.

(iv) One member, appointed in consultation with the Funeral Directors Society of the county, shall be an accredited funeral director whose place of business is within the county.

(v) One member shall be the President of the Allegheny County Police Chiefs Association or his designee.

(vi) One member shall be the Dean of the Medical School of the University of Pittsburgh or his designee.

(vii) One member shall be the Dean of the Law School of Duquesne University or his designee.

(2) The selection committee shall review the professional credentials of individuals interested in the position of county medical examiner to insure that the individual meets the requirements of this section. The committee members may also consider other additional factors, as deemed appropriate, such as professional and administrative experience, a personal interview, education beyond the minimum requirements, etc. The selection committee shall then, within sixty days of the appointment of the committee, present a list of at least three

1 candidates who, in the best judgment of the committee members,
2 would be both qualified and able to hold the position of county
3 medical examiner from which the county commissioners shall
4 appoint a county medical examiner: Provided however, That in the
5 event that the county commissioners find all candidates
6 unacceptable, they shall, within fifteen days of such finding,
7 communicate such finding to the selection committee with a
8 written explanation of why such candidates are unacceptable. The
9 committee shall then, within thirty days, nominate additional
10 candidates to the county commissioners.

11 (e) No person shall be appointed county medical examiner
12 unless he is a physician licensed, or qualified to be licensed,
13 to practice medicine in this Commonwealth and is certified as a
14 Diplomate in Anatomic Pathology by the American Board of
15 Pathology, with at least two-years' experience in the field of
16 forensic pathology.

17 (f) Following a one-year probationary period, the county
18 medical examiner shall be subject to removal for cause by the
19 county commissioners and he shall be removed from office on
20 conviction of misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime.

21 (g) Following ten consecutive years of service by the same
22 individual as county medical examiner, the County Medical
23 Examiner Selection Committee shall review the performance of the
24 individual and the office of the county medical examiner and
25 make a recommendation to the county commissioners regarding his
26 retention.

27 (1) At this time, the county medical examiner may be removed
28 by of the county commissioners for cause and the office shall be
29 declared vacant and filled pursuant to the provisions of this
30 section. The county commissioners shall, within fifteen days of

1 the removal of the county medical examiner, supply the outgoing
2 county medical examiner with a written explanation of why he is
3 being dismissed.

4 (2) If the county medical examiner is retained, he shall be
5 subject to similar reviews at subsequent ten-year intervals, if
6 he holds the position for such a length of time.

7 (h) The county medical examiner may not engage in the
8 private practice of medicine for profit which would conflict
9 with any duties, responsibilities or authority of the office of
10 the county medical examiner and involves the use of the
11 facilities or personnel of the office of the county medical
12 examiner or the county morgue.

13 (i) Except where otherwise specified, all powers and duties
14 previously exercised and performed by the coroner in counties of
15 the second class shall hereinafter be exercised and performed by
16 the county medical examiner.

17 (j) The county medical examiner must provide the County
18 Medical Examiner Selection Committee and the county
19 commissioners with an annual financial and administrative report
20 on the operations of the office.

21 Section 1262. Office of County Medical Examiner.--(a) The
22 county medical examiner shall appoint a chief deputy medical
23 examiner and may appoint one or more additional deputies to act
24 in his place, as he deems necessary. The deputy or deputies
25 shall have the same powers as the county medical examiner. The
26 county medical examiner shall also have the power to appoint,
27 remove and supervise all employes of the office of county
28 medical examiner.

29 (b) The county medical examiner may appoint one person,
30 learned in the law, as his solicitor. The solicitor shall advise

1 the county medical examiner upon all legal matters that may be
2 submitted to him and shall conduct any litigation in connection
3 with the coroner's office when requested to do so by him. The
4 salary of the solicitor shall be determined by the salary board.

5 (c) If the county medical examiner shall be legally removed
6 from office or shall die or resign, the chief deputy medical
7 examiner shall execute the office of county medical examiner and
8 perform all things thereunto appertaining until another county
9 medical examiner is appointed and notice thereof is given to
10 such chief deputy medical examiner.

11 (d) The county commissioners shall make available, according
12 to existing law, such funds for investigative, technical and
13 clerical personnel and such facilities and equipment as the
14 county commissioners shall deem necessary for the county medical
15 examiner to carry out his duties as herein prescribed.

16 (e) The county salary board shall set the compensation of
17 the county medical examiner and all other employes of the office
18 of county medical examiner.

19 (f) Requests for examinations or other professional services
20 by other counties or persons may be complied with at the
21 pleasure of the county medical examiner pursuant to guidelines
22 established by the county commissioners:

23 (1) A set of fees and charges for such examinations or
24 professional services shall be established by the county medical
25 examiner, subject to approval by the county commissioners and
26 shall be accounted for and paid to the county treasurer pursuant
27 to sections 1801 and 1802.

28 (2) Payment for examinations or professional services shall
29 be the responsibility of the county or person requesting such
30 services.

1 (g) The county medical examiner shall make general rules and
2 regulations for the government and control of county morgues,
3 and shall appoint suitable persons for such morgues so
4 established to have charge of the same, and who shall be
5 removable at the pleasure of the county medical examiner. The
6 number of such persons and the salary of each shall be fixed by
7 the salary board.

8 (h) The county medical examiner shall establish, and revise
9 when necessary, guidelines relative to the qualifications and
10 responsibilities of his employees.

11 (i) The office of the county medical examiner shall be
12 available for official business twenty-four hours a day, seven
13 days a week.

14 Section 1263. Removal of Bodies to Morgue.--Whenever the
15 body of any deceased person who is unidentified, or which body
16 is unclaimed by proper persons, has been found within the
17 county, it shall be removed to the county morgue. The county
18 medical examiner shall, if he deems it necessary, cause any such
19 body to be properly embalmed or prepared for preservation for
20 such length of time as he may think proper. Any such body shall
21 be examined or inspected only by such persons as the county
22 medical examiner authorizes in writing or who are admitted in
23 his presence. No such body shall be removed from any such morgue
24 except upon the certificate of the county medical examiner.

25 Section 1264. Ambulances.--In the county, the county
26 commissioners shall furnish and maintain, from the general funds
27 of the county, ambulances for the removal of bodies of deceased
28 persons to and from the morgue and for the burial of unclaimed
29 bodies. The county medical examiner may provide rules and
30 regulations for the use and maintenance of the ambulances.

1 Section 1265. Unclaimed Property of Deceased; Sales.--(a)

2 The county medical examiner shall safely keep in his charge all
3 personal effects and property which appear to have been on or
4 about the person at the time of his death, or being found on any
5 decedent whose body is received at the county morgue, and all
6 such effects and property which are delivered to him according
7 to law. The county medical examiner shall hold such property for
8 one year, unless sooner claimed by legal representatives of the
9 deceased or otherwise duly and lawfully claimed or disposed of.

10 (b) After one year, the county medical examiner shall cause
11 such property remaining unclaimed, or so much thereof as remains
12 undisposed of according to law except moneys and such properties
13 as securities which may not be subject to such a sale, which
14 shall be turned over to the county commissioners for proper
15 disposition or use, to be sold at public sale.

16 (c) Notice of any such public sale shall be published in at
17 least one newspaper of general circulation in the county once a
18 week for three successive weeks. The proceeds of all such sales
19 shall be paid immediately into the county treasury, and the
20 county medical examiner shall make a written report thereof to
21 the county commissioners, under oath, at the same time. If the
22 body has been buried at the expense of the institution district,
23 the county shall pay the proceeds of the sale, of such property
24 as was not subject to sale, as hereinbefore provided, less
25 costs, over to the institution district. The foregoing
26 provisions shall be in lieu of escheat to the Commonwealth.

27 Section 1266. County Medical Examiner's Investigations.--The
28 county medical examiner having a view of the body shall
29 investigate the facts and circumstances concerning deaths which
30 appear to have happened within the county, regardless where the

cause thereof may have occurred, for the purpose of determining whether or not an autopsy should be conducted or an inquest should be held, in the following cases:

(1) sudden deaths not caused by readily recognizable disease, or wherein the cause of death cannot be properly certified by a physician on the basis of prior (recent) medical attendance;

(2) deaths occurring under suspicious circumstances, including those where alcohol, drugs or other toxic substances may have had a direct bearing on the outcome;

(3) deaths occurring as a result of violence or trauma, whether apparently homicidal, suicidal or accidental (including those due to mechanical, thermal, chemical, electrical or radiational injury, drowning, cave-ins and subsidences);

(4) any death in which trauma, chemical injury, drug overdose or reaction to drugs or medication or medical treatment, was a primary or secondary, direct or indirect, contributory, aggravating or precipitating cause of death;

(5) operative and peri-operative deaths in which the death is not readily explainable on the basis of prior disease;

(6) any death wherein the body is unidentified or unclaimed;

(7) deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard;

(8) deaths occurring in prison, penal institution or while in the custody of the police;

(9) deaths of persons whose bodies are to be cremated, buried at sea or otherwise disposed of so as to be thereafter unavailable for examination; and

(10) sudden infant death syndrome.

The purpose of the investigation shall be to determine the cause

1 of any such death and to determine whether or not there is
2 sufficient reason for the county medical examiner to believe
3 that any such death may have resulted from criminal acts or
4 criminal neglect of persons other than the deceased.

5 Section 1267. Sudden Deaths Defined.--The county medical
6 examiner shall regard any death as sudden if it occurs without
7 prior medical attendance by a person who may lawfully execute a
8 certificate of death in this Commonwealth, or if, within twenty-
9 four hours of death, the decedent was discharged from such
10 medical attendance if a change of such medical attendance had
11 occurred, or if such medical attendance began within twenty-four
12 hours of death and the medical attendant refuses or is unable to
13 certify the cause of death. Medical attendance includes
14 hospitalization. The provisions of this section shall not be
15 construed to affect the medical examiner's discretion as to
16 whether or not any death was suspicious, nor shall they be
17 construed to authorize the county medical examiner to
18 investigate a sudden death any further than necessary to
19 determine the cause and manner of death.

20 Section 1268. Bodies not to be Moved.--In all cases where
21 the county medical examiner has jurisdiction to investigate the
22 facts and circumstances of death, the body and its surroundings
23 shall be left untouched until the county medical examiner has
24 had a view thereof or until he shall otherwise direct or
25 authorize, except as may be otherwise provided by law, or as
26 circumstances may require. Bodies upon a public thoroughfare or
27 in other places may be removed so much as is necessary for
28 precaution against traffic accidents or other serious
29 consequences which might reasonably be anticipated if they were
30 left intact.

1 Section 1269. County Medical Examiner's Investigation,
2 Autopsy; Inquest; Records.--(a) If, upon the investigation by
3 the county medical examiner, he shall be unable to determine the
4 cause and manner of death, he shall perform an autopsy on the
5 body.

6 (b) If the county medical examiner is unable to determine
7 the cause and manner of death following the autopsy, he shall
8 proceed to conduct an inquest upon a view of the body, as
9 provided by law. At the inquest, the county medical examiner's
10 duty shall be to ascertain the cause of death and to determine
11 whether any person other than the deceased was criminally
12 responsible therefor by act or neglect, and if so, the identity
13 of the persons, and any further evidence and witnesses regarding
14 the crime.

15 (c) The proceedings at the inquest shall be recorded, at the
16 expense of the county, in a manner to be provided by the county
17 commissioners, and any salary that may be required for this
18 purpose shall be fixed by the salary board.

19 (d) The county medical examiner may, in his discretion,
20 admit or exclude members of the public from any inquest or part
21 thereof, and admit or exclude any person interested or suspected
22 from such inquest or any part thereof. No person excluded may
23 appear by attorney, but any person required to attend may have
24 benefit of counsel at such attendance.

25 Section 1270. Inquests; Juries.--(a) The county medical
26 examiner may at his discretion summon a jury of six to be
27 selected from the jury panel in the criminal division, court of
28 common pleas.

29 (b) The function of such jury shall be to determine the
30 manner of death and whether any criminal act of persons known or

1 unknown caused such death. Such jury shall be paid as provided
2 by law as if they were serving the court of common pleas.

3 Section 1271. Power of Subpoena and Attachment.--The county
4 medical examiner shall have power to issue subpoenas to obtain
5 the attendance of any person whom it may be necessary to examine
6 as a witness at any inquest, and to compel attendance by
7 attachment in like manner and to the same extent as any court of
8 common pleas of this Commonwealth may or can do in cases pending
9 before it, and also to compel in like manner the production of
10 all papers and other things relative to such inquest. Such
11 subpoena and attachment shall be served and executed by the
12 sheriff or by the medical examiner himself or his deputy, as the
13 case may require.

14 Section 1272. Power to Administer Oaths.--The county medical
15 examiner shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations
16 to all persons brought or appearing before him, and any person
17 swearing or affirming falsely on such examination shall be
18 guilty of perjury.

19 Section 1273. Commitment to County Prison.--If any person
20 appearing before the county medical examiner for examination
21 shall refuse to take oath or affirmation, or after having been
22 sworn or affirmed shall refuse to make answer to such questions
23 as shall be put to him by the county medical examiner touching
24 the matters of the inquest, such person so refusing may be held
25 for contempt before the court of common pleas.

26 Section 1274. Cooperation with District Attorney.--In the
27 exercise of his duties as contained in this subdivision, the
28 county medical examiner shall, so far as may be practicable,
29 consult and advise with the district attorney.

30 Section 1275. Release of County Medical Examiner's

1 Jurisdiction.--Whenever the county medical examiner assumes
2 jurisdiction of a body pursuant to the provisions of this
3 subdivision or of any other law, the body shall not be released
4 or removed from his jurisdiction except upon his direction and
5 consent, in accordance with law.

6 Section 1276. Certificate of Cause of Death.--The county
7 medical examiner shall issue a certificate of cause of death in
8 all cases referred to him by the local registrar of vital
9 statistics, pursuant to the provisions of the act of June 29,
10 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the "Vital Statistics Law of
11 1953," and in all other cases of which he has jurisdiction, if
12 no person duly authorized by that act certifies the cause of
13 death.

14 Section 1277. Pituitary Glands.--(a) The county medical
15 examiner performing an autopsy otherwise authorized by law may
16 remove the pituitary gland of the decedent and dispose of it
17 pursuant to subsection (b) if:

18 (1) the decedent by his will or other document authorizes
19 the removal; or

20 (2) any of the persons listed in 20 Pa.C.S. § 8602(b)
21 (relating to persons who may execute an anatomical gift)
22 authorizes its removal and no person in a higher class, as
23 provided in 20 Pa.C.S. § 8602(b), overrules the person's
24 permission.

25 The pituitary glands may not be removed, as provided for in this
26 section, if the removal would interfere in any way with an
27 anatomical gift made pursuant to 20 Pa.C.S. Ch. 86 (relating to
28 anatomical gifts).

29 (b) Pituitary glands removed pursuant to this section shall
30 be delivered to the National Pituitary Agency for use in

1 research and manufacturing of hormones necessary for the
2 physical growth of hypopituitary dwarfs, or to such other agency
3 or organization for similar purposes as authorized by the
4 Humanity Gifts Registry.

5 (c) Any moneys payable for the delivery of pituitary glands
6 as provided in subsection (b) may be waived by the county
7 medical examiner. If such moneys are not waived, the proceeds
8 shall be payable directly to the county treasury and no officer
9 or employe of the county medical examiner's office shall receive
10 any compensation for such removal or disposition except the
11 salaries or fees otherwise payable by law.

12 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
13 or regulate the removal of pituitary glands when such removal is
14 deemed necessary for the purposes of the autopsy.

15 Section 1278. Anatomical Gifts.--The county medical examiner
16 may order the removal of parts of a decedents body for donation
17 purposes in accordance with Chapter 86 of Title 20 (relating to
18 anatomical gifts).

19 Section 6. The heading of subdivision (c) of Article XII and
20 sections 1260, 1261 and 1262 of the act are amended to read:

21 [(c)] (d) Provisions Relating to Sheriffs [and],

22 Coroners and Medical Examiners

23 Section [1260] 1290. Not to Exercise Office Until Commission
24 Granted and Recorded; Penalty.--No person elected or appointed
25 to the office of sheriff or coroner shall execute any of the
26 duties of such office before a commission shall have been duly
27 granted to him by the Governor and recorded in the recorder of
28 deeds office, under a penalty of imprisonment for a term not
29 exceeding six months, at the discretion of the court of quarter
30 sessions. Such person shall nevertheless be liable to any person

1 injured by any acts done by him under color of such office.

2 Section [1261] 1291. Recognizances of Sheriffs [and],
3 Coroners and Medical Examiners.--(a) Every sheriff, whether
4 elected, reelected or appointed to fill a vacancy, not including
5 any coroner temporarily acting as sheriff, and every coroner and
6 medical examiner, before he is commissioned or executes any
7 duties of his respective office, shall execute and duly
8 acknowledge before the recorder of deeds a proper recognizance,
9 without any surety, to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the
10 faithful discharge of all of his official duties, in like manner
11 as that of his official bond required by law and in a form
12 containing like conditions as such bond. The recognizance shall
13 be immediately recorded in said county, at the expense of said
14 sheriff or coroner or medical examiner, and when so recorded
15 shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commonwealth with
16 said recorder's certificate endorsed thereon of its having been
17 duly recorded and with a reference to the place of record
18 thereof.

19 (b) Every such recognizance hereafter executed shall
20 continue to be a lien on the real estate owned by the sheriff or
21 coroner or medical examiner at the date of such acknowledgment
22 for a period of six years from that date. Every recognizance
23 heretofore executed by any sheriff or coroner or medical
24 examiner shall continue to be a lien on the real estate owned by
25 the sheriff or coroner or medical examiner at the time the
26 recognizance was dated for a period of six years after that
27 date, but in every case where the period of six years has
28 already expired, the lien of such recognizance shall continue
29 for a period of two years after the twenty-ninth day of
30 September, one thousand nine hundred fifty-one, or to the end of

1 the lien term fixed by law at the time the recognizance was
2 executed, whichever date shall first occur.

3 (c) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall have and keep
4 the custody of every such recognizance, and any copy thereof and
5 of said endorsements certified to by the Secretary of the
6 Commonwealth shall be competent evidence of the execution,
7 delivery and recording thereof in any judicial proceedings, and
8 may be relied upon by any public officer to the same extent as
9 the original recognizance.

10 (d) The recorder of deeds may also certify copies of such
11 recognizance and the time and place of record thereof for like
12 purposes, upon receipt of his fees therefor, according to
13 existing laws.

14 (e) Such recognizance or any duly certified copy thereof may
15 likewise be recorded and indexed like a judgment in any other
16 county of this Commonwealth by any person or public officer,
17 upon payment of the usual fees to the recorder of deeds and
18 prothonotary of such county, respectively, for the purpose of
19 creating a lien on any real estate of the sheriff or coroner or
20 medical examiner obligated thereby lying in such other county.

21 (f) It shall be the duty of the recorder of deeds of the
22 county for which a sheriff or coroner or medical examiner is
23 elected or appointed, as soon as said sheriff or coroner or
24 medical examiner is commissioned, to certify the date, amount
25 and place of record of his recognizance, with the name and
26 address of said sheriff or coroner or medical examiner, to the
27 prothonotary of said county, who shall enter such information
28 upon his dockets and index the lien of such recognizance like a
29 judgment obtained in the court of common pleas of the county.

30 (g) Every sheriff's or coroner's or medical examiner's

1 recognizance hereafter given shall inure to the benefit of any
2 surety on his official bond entitled to subrogation to the
3 rights of any person or corporation, including any county
4 intended to be benefited thereby, injured by any official
5 misconduct or neglect of the sheriff or coroner or medical
6 examiner who executed such recognizance, to the extent of any
7 payments by such surety for any damages for which such sheriff
8 or coroner or medical examiner may be held to be liable in any
9 suit or proceedings against such sheriff or coroner or medical
10 examiner on his official bond or recognizance. A similar right
11 of subrogation may be enforced with respect to any such
12 recognizance heretofore given, to the extent permitted by law or
13 equity.

14 Section [1262] 1292. Sale of Real Estate Bound by Lien.--(a)
15 If the sheriff or coroner or medical examiner shall sell any
16 real estate bound by the lien of any recognizance, such sheriff
17 or coroner or medical examiner may present a petition to the
18 court of common pleas of the county wherein the land so bound is
19 situate, accompanied by notice to his sureties on his official
20 bond and to his board of county commissioners, setting forth the
21 fact of such sale, and praying for a release of the lien of such
22 recognizance upon the real estate described in the petition.

23 (b) The court, being satisfied of the sufficiency of the
24 sureties upon his official bond and that no action has been
25 commenced by any person or corporation on said recognizance, or
26 that all suits thereon have been ended by payment of any
27 judgments obtained therein or otherwise, may release the lien
28 upon such land.

29 (c) The court of common pleas of such officer's county may,
30 before the release of the lien upon any such real estate,

1 approve of additional sureties to be added or substituted upon
2 his official bond, as such court shall deem necessary.

3 Section 7. Sections 1925, 2112 and 2590 of the act are
4 amended to read:

5 Section 1925. Power of Subpoena and Attachment.--The
6 controller shall have power to issue subpoenas to obtain the
7 attendance of the officers whose accounts they are required to
8 adjust, their executors and administrators, and of any person
9 whom it may be necessary to examine as witnesses, and to compel
10 their attendance by attachment, in like manner and to the same
11 extent as any court of common pleas of this State may or can do
12 in cases pending before them, and also to compel in like manner
13 the production of all books, vouchers and papers relative to
14 such accounts. Such subpoena and attachment shall be served and
15 executed by the sheriff or coroner or medical examiner of the
16 county, as the case may require.

17 Section 2112. Notification to County Commissioners.--The
18 coroners, medical examiners and all other public officers,
19 agents and servants, and all officers, agents and servants of
20 any county, city, township, borough, district or other
21 municipality, or of any prison, morgue, hospital, home or other
22 public institution, having the control or custody of the body of
23 the deceased service person whose body is entitled to be buried
24 under the provisions of this subdivision, shall immediately,
25 upon the death or arrival of the body of such deceased service
26 person, notify the county commissioners of the county wherein
27 such death occurred or wherein such deceased service person
28 shall have had his legal residence.

29 Section 2590. Authority to Provide; Approval.--The county
30 commissioners of each county may, upon presentment of two

1 successive grand juries of the county, buy or lease land and
2 construct and maintain thereon, at the expense of the county, a
3 morgue for the reception and care of the bodies of all unclaimed
4 deceased persons upon whom it may be necessary to hold a
5 coroner's inquest and such other bodies as the coroner or
6 medical examiner of the county may, by written order, direct to
7 be received therein. The location of such morgue shall be
8 determined by the county commissioners, subject to the approval
9 of a judge of the court of common pleas and the coroner or
10 medical examiner of the county.

11 Section 8. The office of coroner in second class counties is
12 hereby abolished and following January 10, 1992, no person shall
13 hereafter be elected as any such officer after the existing
14 coroner's term of office terminates.

15 Section 9. The provisions of this amendatory act shall not
16 apply until the end of the existing coroner's term of office,
17 unless a vacancy occurs in the office of coroner in which case a
18 county medical examiner shall be appointed as the successor to
19 the coroner in accordance with this amendatory act.

20 Section 10. This act shall take effect January 10, 1992.