

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1571 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY JAMES, WATERS, McGEEHAN, KIRKLAND, BEBKO-JONES,
BELFANTI, BLAUM, CALTAGIRONE, DeWEESE, GOODMAN, JOSEPHS,
METCALFE, PRESTON, REICHLEY, ROONEY, SHANER, THOMAS, TIGUE,
WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 11, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 11, 2005

AN ACT

1 Specifying the individuals who are entitled to receive autopsy
2 reports and associated medical records prepared by coroners
3 and medical examiners.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Autopsy
8 Report Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Next of kin." A surviving spouse, parent, sibling or adult
14 child of a decedent.

15 Section 3. Copies of autopsy reports.

16 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
17 including home rule charter provisions, a coroner or medical

1 examiner shall, upon payment of a reasonable fee, release a copy
2 of the autopsy report of a decedent, including all associated
3 medical records, to any person who qualifies as the decedent's
4 next of kin.

5 Section 4. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect immediately.