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HOUSE BILL 2389

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Moeller and Kirby

Prefiled 12/07/09. Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness.

1 AN ACT Relating to forensic investigations; amending RCW  
2 43.103.040; and adding a new section to chapter 43.103 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.103 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The council shall develop minimum standards for facilities used  
7 to perform autopsies in order to ensure that such facilities are  
8 designed and equipped in a manner that promotes accurate and efficient  
9 autopsies. The minimum standards shall include, but not be limited to,  
10 standards in the following areas:

11 (a) Equipment;

12 (b) Sanitation;

13 (c) Lighting; and

14 (d) Ventilation and other environmental systems.

15 (2) The council shall also:

16 (a) Develop a written methodology for determining whether a  
17 facility is in compliance with the minimum standards; and

18 (b) Make recommendations regarding:

1 (i) An inspection mechanism that could be used by a certifying body  
2 to determine whether a facility is in compliance with the minimum  
3 standards; and

4 (ii) Other methods through which the minimum standards could be  
5 implemented on a statewide basis.

6 (3) The council shall report the minimum standards, the  
7 methodology, and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate  
8 committees of the legislature no later than December 1, 2011.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.103.040 and 1995 c 398 s 5 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 The council shall consist of (~~twelve~~) thirteen members who shall  
12 be selected as follows: One county coroner; one county prosecutor; one  
13 county prosecutor who also serves as ex officio county coroner; one  
14 county medical examiner from a county with a population of over six  
15 hundred thousand; one county medical examiner from a county with a  
16 population of under five hundred thousand; one county sheriff; one  
17 chief of police; the chief of the state patrol; two members of a county  
18 legislative authority; one pathologist who is currently in private  
19 practice; and two members of a city legislative authority.

20 The governor shall appoint members to the council from among the  
21 nominees submitted for each position as follows: The Washington  
22 association of county officials shall submit two nominees each for the  
23 coroner position and the medical examiner positions; the Washington  
24 state association of counties shall submit two nominees each for the  
25 two county legislative authority positions; the association of  
26 Washington cities shall submit two nominees each for the two city  
27 legislative authority positions; the Washington association of  
28 prosecuting attorneys shall submit two nominees each for the county  
29 prosecutor-ex officio county coroner and for the county prosecutor  
30 position; the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs  
31 shall submit two nominees each for the county sheriff position and the  
32 chief of police position; and the Washington association of  
33 pathologists shall submit two nominees for the private pathologist  
34 position.

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