



2025 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 72

Introduced by: **Senator Hulse**

1 **An Act to revise the payor of autopsy costs in certain circumstances.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1. That § 23-14-9.2 be AMENDED:**

4 **23-14-9.2.** A physician or surgeon appointed under § 23-14-9.1, or the coroner if
 5 the coroner is a physician or surgeon providing services pursuant to § 23-14-9.1, shall
 6 receive a reasonable fee for ~~his services to be ascertained and rendered,~~ as approved by
 7 the board of county commissioners ~~and paid.~~ The board shall pay the fee out of the general
 8 fund of the county. ~~If the coroner is a physician or surgeon, he may personally perform~~
 9 ~~such autopsy; and he shall receive a reasonable fee for his services to be ascertained and~~
 10 ~~approved by the board of county commissioners and paid out of the general fund of the~~
 11 ~~county.~~

12 ~~If the~~ The decedent's county of residence must reimburse the county in which the
 13 autopsy occurred for the cost of the autopsy if:

14 (1) The death ~~or autopsy occurs~~ occurred in a county other than the ~~decedents'~~
 15 ~~decedent's~~ county of residence, ~~the county of residence shall reimburse the county~~
 16 ~~where the autopsy occurred for the cost of the autopsy,~~ provided that the; and

17 (2) The county of residence ~~either requested~~ requested the autopsy or is the site where
 18 the accident or injury leading to the death occurred.

19 If the decedent's death occurred as a result of a crime committed by the decedent,
 20 or following the decedent's commission of murder in the first degree, in violation of § 22-
 21 16-4, the board may require the estate of the decedent to pay the autopsy costs under
 22 this section.