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**By: Delegate Guns**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Medical Examiner - Autopsy - Accident Victims**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that an autopsy on an accident victim shall be performed  
4 in the county where the accident occurred; providing a certain exception; and  
5 generally relating to performing an autopsy on an accident victim.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article - Health - General  
8 Section 5-310(b)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Health - General**

14 5-310.

15 (b) (1) If the medical examiner who investigates a medical examiner's case  
16 considers an autopsy necessary, the Chief Medical Examiner, the Deputy Chief Medical  
17 Examiner, an assistant medical examiner, or a pathologist authorized by the Chief  
18 Medical Examiner shall perform the autopsy.

19 (2) If the family of the deceased objects to an autopsy on religious grounds,  
20 the autopsy may not be performed unless authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner or by  
21 the Chief Medical Examiner's designee.

22 (3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS  
23 PARAGRAPH, AN AUTOPSY SHALL BE PERFORMED AT A LOCATION DESIGNATED BY  
24 THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER OR THE DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

25 (II) AN AUTOPSY PERFORMED ON AN ACCIDENT VICTIM SHALL BE  
26 PERFORMED IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED UNLESS THE CHIEF  
27 MEDICAL EXAMINER DETERMINES THAT THERE IS A COMPELLING REASON TO  
28 PERFORM THE AUTOPSY AT A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE COUNTY WHERE THE  
29 ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

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1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 1997.