

CHAPTER 83

GOVERNMENT - COUNTY

SENATE BILL 26-105

BY SENATOR(S) Hinrichsen, Benavidez, Cutter, Exum, Gonzales J., Jodeh, Kipp, Kolker, Lindstedt, Marchman, Mullica, Roberts, Snyder, Sullivan, Wallace, Weissman, Coleman;
also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Martinez and Mauro, Bacon, Boesenecker, Clifford, Duran, Lindsay, Rutinel, Titone.

AN ACT

CONCERNING COUNTY CORONERS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REQUIRING CORONERS TO DISCLOSE THEIR FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN REGULATED BUSINESSES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-10-601.5, **amend** (1)(d) as follows:

30-10-601.5. Qualifications - fingerprints.

(1) A person is eligible to hold the office of coroner if the person:

(d) For a coroner elected on or after November 5, 2024, in a county with a population greater than ~~one hundred fifty~~ THREE HUNDRED thousand, is a death investigator certified by and in good standing with the American board of medicolegal death investigators or is a forensic pathologist certified by and in good standing with the American board of pathology.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 30-10-625 as follows:

30-10-625. County coroner - financial interest in regulated businesses - definition.

(1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "FINANCIAL INTEREST" MEANS AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST, EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP, MANAGEMENT ROLE, CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP, OR OTHER DIRECT PECUNIARY INTEREST.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(2) (a) THE CORONER DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION WHO HAS A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A BUSINESS THAT IS SUBJECT TO REGULATION OR OVERSIGHT BY THE OFFICE OF THE CORONER SHALL DISCLOSE THAT INTEREST IN WRITING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(b) A COUNTY CORONER SHALL DISCLOSE ANY FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MORTUARY, FUNERAL HOME, CREMATORY, EMBALMING SERVICE, OR OTHER DEATH-CARE BUSINESS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO REFERRAL, INVESTIGATION, OVERSIGHT, OR OTHER OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE CORONER'S OFFICE.

(3) THE CORONER SHALL DISCLOSE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A REGULATED BUSINESS AS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION BY POSTING A NOTICE OF THE FINANCIAL INTEREST ON THE CORONER'S WEBSITE.

(4) A CORONER WHO HAS DISCLOSED A FINANCIAL INTEREST PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY OFFICIAL ACTION THAT WOULD DIRECTLY AND SPECIFICALLY AFFECT THE BUSINESS IN WHICH THE CORONER HAS THE FINANCIAL INTEREST.

(5) THIS SECTION APPLIES IN ADDITION TO, AND DOES NOT LIMIT, ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, ETHICS, OR DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CORONER IMPOSED BY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.

(6) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR, OR SERVING AS, A COUNTY CORONER FROM OPERATING A MORTUARY, FUNERAL HOME, CREMATORY, EMBALMING SERVICE, OR OTHER DEATH-CARE BUSINESS.

SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: May 4, 2026