

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9578

## IN SENATE

May 16, 2024

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the county law, in relation to mandatory continuing education requirements for coroners and coroner's deputies

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 679 of the county law, as added by chapter 184 of  
2 the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 679. 1. Training requirements for coroners and coroner's deputies.  
4 Each coroner and coroner's deputy, whether elected or appointed pursuant  
5 to section four hundred of this chapter, shall attend and successfully  
6 complete state-approved courses in medical-legal investigation. The cost  
7 of such courses shall be the responsibility of the coroner or coroner's  
8 deputy, provided however that the county may, at its discretion, reim-  
9 burse the coroner or coroner's deputy for all or a portion of the cost  
10 of such courses. Such courses shall be prescribed, certified and accred-  
11 ited pursuant to rules promulgated by the department of health, in  
12 consultation with the department of state, the division of criminal  
13 justice services, the superintendent of state police, the commissioner  
14 of education, and the chair of the commission on forensic science. The  
15 department of health may also consult with qualified professional  
16 groups. Such rules shall also establish the frequency and duration for  
17 successful completion of any such courses by [a] the coroner or  
18 coroner's deputy and may prescribe heightened levels of training for any  
19 newly elected or appointed coroner or coroner's deputy.

20 2. (a) Each coroner and coroner's deputy, whether elected or appointed  
21 pursuant to section four hundred of this chapter, shall attend and  
22 successfully complete no less than thirty credits in state-approved  
23 medical legal investigation courses over a three-year period. The cost  
24 of such courses shall be the responsibility of the coroner or coroner's  
25 deputy, provided however that the county may, at its discretion, reim-  
26 burse the coroner or coroner's deputy for all or a portion of the cost  
27 of such courses. Such courses shall be prescribed, certified and accred-  
28 ited pursuant to rules promulgated by the department of health, in

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD15635-01-4

1 consultation with the department of state, the division of criminal  
2 justice services, the superintendent of state police, the commissioner  
3 of education, and the chair of the commission on forensic science. The  
4 department of health may also consult with qualified professional groups  
5 including but not limited to the New York state association of county  
6 coroners and medical examiners. Each coroner and coroner's deputy shall  
7 register triennially with the department of health to practice and shall  
8 comply with the provisions of the mandatory continuing education  
9 requirements prescribed in this subdivision.

10 (b) Each coroner or coroner's deputy shall be exempt from the mandato-  
11 ry continuing education requirement for one year following the date on  
12 which they are first elected or appointed pursuant to section four  
13 hundred of this chapter.

14 (c) A coroner or coroner's deputy who does not satisfy the mandatory  
15 continuing education requirements, except as provided by paragraph (b)  
16 of this subdivision, shall not practice until they have met such  
17 requirements, and they have been issued a certificate of completion by  
18 the department of health or other agency listed in paragraph (a) of this  
19 subdivision. The New York state association of county coroners and  
20 medical examiners shall retain records of compliance with the continu-  
21 ing education requirements by all coroners and coroner's deputies and  
22 shall notify those individuals and their respective counties if a coron-  
23 er or coroner's deputy is not in compliance with this subdivision.

24 (d) In accordance with the intent of this subdivision, adjustment to  
25 the mandatory continuing education requirement may be granted by the  
26 department of health for reasons of health if certified by an appropri-  
27 ate health care professional, for extended active duty with the armed  
28 forces of the United States, or for other good cause acceptable to the  
29 department of health which may prevent compliance.

30 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
31 it shall have become a law.