

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 705  
 2 INTRODUCED BY S. KERNS, G. NIKOLAKAKOS, P. FIELDER, L. BREWSTER, B. LER, A. REGIER, S.  
 3 GALLOWAY, R. MARSHALL, B. USHER, N. DURAM  
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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUICIDE THROUGH  
 6 LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION IN CORONER'S INQUEST CASES; AND AMENDING SECTION 46-  
 7 4-205, MCA."  
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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:  
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11 **Section 1.** Section 46-4-205, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"46-4-205. Verdict of jury -- form.** The jury may view the body, and the county attorney may require  
 13 the jury to view the body. The jury shall review the death scene and may do so by videotape, photographs, or  
 14 slide transparencies. After viewing the body and the death scene and hearing the testimony, the jury shall  
 15 render its verdict, which must be by majority vote, and certify the verdict in writing signed by each juror. The  
 16 verdict must set forth:

- 17 (1) who the deceased person is;
- 18 (2) when and where the deceased died;
- 19 (3) if the deceased died by criminal means; and
- 20 (4) if the deceased was killed or the deceased's death was occasioned by the act of another by  
 21 criminal means, who committed the act, if known. If the jury finds that the death was not by criminal means, that  
 22 fact must be stated on the verdict form.

23 (5) if evidence presented at the inquest supports a conclusion that the deceased engaged police in  
 24 a deadly force encounter as a method of suicide, the jury shall indicate on the form that the deceased died by  
 25 suicide through law enforcement intervention."

26 - END -