

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1872 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BOROWSKI, C. WILLIAMS, PROBST, HILL-EVANS,
T. DAVIS, MADDEN, GILLEN, CURRY, SHUSTERMAN, KAZEEM, DALEY,
KHAN AND VITALI, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), entitled
2 "An act relating to counties of the first, second class A,
3 third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes;
4 amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws
5 relating thereto; relating to imposition of excise taxes by
6 counties, including authorizing imposition of an excise tax
7 on the rental of motor vehicles by counties of the first
8 class; and providing for regional renaissance initiatives,"
9 in coroner, providing for sudden unexpected death in
10 epilepsy.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. The act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130),
14 known as The County Code, is amended by adding a section to
15 read:

16 Section 1221.1-B. Sudden unexpected death in epilepsy.

17 (a) Requirement.--An autopsy conducted in this Commonwealth
18 shall include an inquiry to determine whether a death was a
19 direct result of a seizure or epilepsy. If the findings in an
20 autopsy of a coroner are consistent with known or suspected
21 SUDEP, the coroner shall:

1 (1) Cause to be indicated on the death certificate that
2 SUDEP is the cause or suspected cause of death.

3 (2) Forward a copy of the death certificate within 30
4 days to an organization of researchers who document and
5 analyze cases of SUDEP in order to reveal SUDEP risk factors
6 and causes and develop preventative measures.

7 (b) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "sudden
8 unexpected death in epilepsy" or "SUDEP" shall refer to a death
9 in a patient previously diagnosed with epilepsy that is not due
10 to trauma, drowning, status epilepticus or other known causes
11 but for which there is often evidence of an associated seizure.
12 A finding of SUDEP is definite when clinical criteria are met
13 and autopsy reveals no alternative cause of death, such as
14 stroke, myocardial infarction or drug intoxication, although
15 there may be evidence of a seizure.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.