



2025 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1212

Introduced by: **Representative** Weisgram

1 **An Act to revise the authority to establish and maintain a training program for**
 2 **county coroners.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That a NEW SECTION be added to chapter 34-1:**

5 The Department of Health shall establish and maintain a training program for
 6 county coroners. The program must include training regarding death scene investigation
 7 and death registration. The department shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26
 8 to establish minimum education and training standards for newly selected county coroners
 9 and advanced training standards for incumbent county coroners.

10 **Section 2. That § 7-14-10 be AMENDED:**

11 **7-14-10.** Each newly selected county coroner shall participate in the training
 12 program established by the ~~Law Enforcement Officers Standards Commission~~ Department
 13 of Health, pursuant to section 1 of this Act, within one year of taking office. Each county
 14 coroner shall participate in and successfully complete ~~an~~ advanced or refresher training
 15 established by the ~~commission~~ department, pursuant to section 1 of this Act, at least
 16 every two years.

17 **Section 3. That § 23-3-35 be AMENDED:**

18 **23-3-35.** In addition to any other powers conferred upon the Law Enforcement
 19 Officers Standards Commission ~~elsewhere~~ in this chapter, the commission may:

- 20 (1) Promulgate rules for the administration of §§ 23-3-26 to 23-3-47, inclusive,
 21 including the authority to require the submission of reports and information by law
 22 enforcement agencies within this state;
- 23 (2) Establish minimum educational and training standards for admission to
 24 employment as a law enforcement officer:

- 1 (a) In permanent positions; and
- 2 (b) In temporary or probationary status;
- 3 (3) Certify persons as being qualified under the provisions of §§ 23-3-26 to 23-3-47,
4 inclusive, to be law enforcement officers, and by rule to establish criteria and
5 procedure for the revocation or suspension of the certification of officers who have
6 been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, have
7 intentionally falsified any application or document to achieve certification, or have
8 been discharged from employment for cause, or have engaged in conduct
9 unbecoming of a law enforcement officer;
- 10 (4) Establish minimum curriculum requirements for preparatory, in-service, and
11 advanced courses and programs for schools operated by or for the state or any
12 political subdivisions of the state for the specific purpose of training recruits, other
13 law enforcement officers, or tribal law enforcement;
- 14 (5) Consult and cooperate with counties, municipalities, agencies of this state, tribal
15 governments, other governmental agencies, and with universities, colleges, junior
16 colleges, and other institutions concerning the development of law enforcement
17 training schools and programs or courses of instruction;
- 18 (6) Approve institutions and facilities for school operation by or for the state or any
19 political subdivision of the state for the specific purpose of training law enforcement
20 officers and recruits;
- 21 (7) Make or encourage studies of any aspect of police administration;
- 22 (8) Conduct and stimulate research by public and private agencies which is designed
23 to improve police administration and law enforcement;
- 24 (9) Make recommendations concerning any matter within its purview pursuant to
25 §§ 23-3-26 to 23-3-47, inclusive;
- 26 (10) Make such evaluations as may be necessary to determine if governmental units
27 are complying with the provisions of §§ 23-3-26 to 23-3-47, inclusive;
- 28 (11) Adopt and amend bylaws, consistent with law, for its internal management and
29 control;
- 30 (12) Enter into contracts or do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the
31 administration of its authority pursuant to §§ 23-3-26 to 23-3-47, inclusive;
- 32 (13) License and regulate the activities of private or law enforcement polygraph and
33 computer voice stress analyzer examiners;
- 34 (14) Certify canine teams; and

- 1 (15) ~~Establish minimum educational and training standards for newly selected county~~
- 2 ~~coroners and advanced training standards for incumbent county coroners;~~
- 3 ~~(16)~~ Establish minimum educational and training standards for school sentinels
- 4 authorized in § 13-64-1.

5 **Section 4. That § 23-3-71 be REPEALED.**

6 ~~The Law Enforcement Officers Standards Commission shall establish a training~~

7 ~~program for county coroners. The county coroner training shall include training programs~~

8 ~~concerning scene investigation and death registration. The commission shall establish and~~

9 ~~maintain a county coroner training program in consultation with the Department of Health~~

10 ~~and the county coroners and through such agencies and institutions as the commission~~

11 ~~may deem appropriate.~~