

**H. B. 4548**

(By Delegate Walker (By Request))  
[Introduced February 15, 2012; referred to the  
Committee on Political Subdivisions then Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §61-12-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to postmortem examinations; county coroners; and authorizing county commissions to designate a local funeral home or EMS to transport bodies for purposes of postmortem examinations in certain situations.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §61-12-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 12. POSTMORTEM EXAMINATIONS.**

**§61-12-14. County coroners; appointment, oath, etc.; duties; fees.**

~~It is the duty of the~~ The county commission of every county, from time to time, ~~to~~ shall appoint a coroner for the county, who shall hold the office during the pleasure of the commission and shall take the oath of office prescribed for other county officers.

1 The county coroners shall be certified in medicolegal  
2 investigations, be continually available to perform the duties  
3 required under this article and shall be paid such fees or amounts  
4 for the services as may be fixed by the chief medical examiner.  
5 The county commission of every county may designate a local funeral  
6 home or EMS to transport a body to a medical examiner for an  
7 examination required under the provisions of section eight of this  
8 article in order to expedite examinations.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize county commissions to designate a local funeral home or EMS to transport bodies when a postmortem examination is required.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.