



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0458/P2  
SWB:amn

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION**

1     **AN ACT** *to create* 979.01 (5) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring notification  
2             to the medical examiner or coroner of any death that occurs within 24 hours of  
3             admittance to certain facilities.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This bill was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Uniform Death Reporting Standards.

State law requires a medical examiner or coroner to determine the cause of death for certain types of deaths. Under current law, physicians, authorities of various medical institutions, and other persons having knowledge of a death must report certain types of deaths, including suicide, to the sheriff, police chief, medical examiner, or coroner of the county where the death took place.

This bill creates a requirement to contact a medical examiner or coroner in certain circumstances to determine whether the medical examiner or coroner is required to investigate the death. Specifically, the bill requires that, if a physician, authority, or other person required to report deaths has knowledge of a death that occurred within 24 hours after an individual's admittance to a hospital or similar institution, that person with knowledge must contact the medical examiner or coroner to determine whether the death is reportable under the current laws requiring a medical examiner or coroner to investigate certain deaths.

