

CHAPTER 404—H. F. No. 1035.

An act to amend the title and Sections 1, 2, 4, and 13 of Chapter 272, Laws 1915, which chapter is entitled an act relating to the duties of coroners and prescribing the manner and procedure of holding examinations and inquests by coroners, in counties having a population of not less than two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) and not more than three hundred thousand (300,000) inhabitants.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Coroner in Hennepin county.—That the title to chapter 272, Laws of 1915, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

An act relating to the duties of coroners and prescribing the manner and procedure of holding examinations and inquests by coroners in counties having a population of not less than two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) inhabitants.

Sec. 2. Investigations.—That section 1 of chapter 272, Laws 1915, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the coroner, in counties having a population of not less than two hundred and twenty thousand (220,000) inhabitants, to make such investigations as he shall deem necessary and issue his death certificate in all of the following cases and no others: Violent, mysterious and accidental deaths, including suspected homicides, occurring in his county.

Sec. 3. Disposition of effects.—That section 2 of chapter 272, Laws 1915, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, in any such county, in any manner, to remove, interfere with or handle the body or the effects of any deceased person subject to an investigation by the coroner, except upon order of the coroner or his deputy, and the coroner shall receive, take charge of and safely keep the effects found on the body of such deceased persons, *such effects to be disposed of by such coroner pursuant to the provisions of sections 7318 and 7319 of the General Statutes of Minnesota for 1913*, and if a crime is suspected the coroner shall have the power to prevent any person or persons from coming into or on said premises, or rooms or buildings thereon, and shall have the custody of any objects that he may deem may be of material evidence in the case.

Sec. 4. Disposition of bodies.—That section 4 of chapter 272, Laws 1915, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

The coroner shall order an autopsy when and where he deems proper and physicians called by the coroner to make such autopsies shall receive six dollars (\$6.00) per day and mileage for such services. He may order a chemical analysis or microscopical examination of any portion of the dead body, or matter or other thing mate-

rial to determine the facts of death. It is hereby made the duty of the chief chemist of the state dairy and food department *and the school of chemistry of the University of Minnesota* to make such chemical analysis upon the request of the coroner.

Sec. 5. **Filing of testimony and payment for taking of same.**
—That section 13 of chapter 272, Laws 1915, be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 13. The coroner may issue subpoenas and summon such persons as witnesses as he may deem necessary and proper, returnable forthwith, or at such time and place as he shall direct, to give evidence before any inquest or investigation, and such witnesses shall be allowed and paid one dollar per day, for each day's attendance, or any fraction thereof, while actually in attendance, on such inquest, or investigation, and mileage to and from the place of attendance at the rate of ten cents per mile, which sum shall be allowed and paid out of the county treasury upon warrant of the county auditor thereof and certificate of the coroner that such services have been rendered, and said witnesses shall be subject to the same procedure and punishment for non-attendance or refusal to testify as is imposed by law upon witnesses in the district court and no person shall be excused from answering any question on the ground that his examination will tend to convict him of the commission of a crime, but his answers shall not be used as evidence against him in any criminal proceeding. *The testimony of all witnesses examined before the coroner's jury shall be reduced to writing by the coroner, or under his direction. The coroner shall forthwith file such testimony, together with a record of all proceedings had before him, in the office of the clerk of the district court of the county. And in all cases brought to the attention of the coroner wherein he does not deem it necessary to hold an inquest, he shall file with such clerk a certificate setting forth the facts in relation thereto. For the taking of such testimony the coroner is hereby authorized to employ a competent reporter who shall be allowed ten cents a folio, his fees to be paid by the county for the transcript filed with the clerk of said district court upon auditor's warrant, upon the presentation to such auditor of a certificate of such coroner that said reporter is entitled thereto. And the clerk of said court shall forthwith duly file, index, and enter such cases or proceeding in a book to be kept for that purpose in the same manner as civil actions are now entered, and shall receive from the treasury of his county the same fees as are allowed by law for like services in civil actions.*

Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 23, 1919.