



## Missouri House of Representatives

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**January 29, 2025**

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### **State Rep. John Voss Introduces Legislation to Modernize Standards and Requirements for Missouri Coroners**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative John Voss has announced legislation for the 2025 legislative session aimed at modernizing Missouri's coroner offices. The proposed bill, HB 1122, introduces mandatory annual training requirements for coroners and their deputies, increases pay parity with other county officials, and establishes a grant program to support training expenses for smaller counties.

"This legislation addresses the need for standardized training and fair compensation for coroners across Missouri," Rep. Voss, R-Cape Girardeau, said. "Coroners play a vital role in our communities, and this bill ensures they have the necessary resources and knowledge to perform their duties effectively."

Under HB 1122, all elected or appointed coroners, deputy coroners, and assistants will be required to complete at least 20 hours of classroom instruction and training each year by a state- or nationally recognized and accredited certification program. The curriculum will focus on critical areas such as pathology, toxicology, medicolegal sciences, and best practices endorsed by leading organizations in the field.

Additionally, the legislation establishes a grant program managed by a professional association of Missouri county coroners. The program provides financial assistance for training-related expenses, offering up to \$5,000 annually to eligible coroner offices in smaller counties. Funding for the grants will come from fees collected on death certificates, which will make the funds available to be used as a grant program to cover some of the expenses.

The bill also seeks to bring coroner compensation in line with other county officials, addressing disparities that have long existed. "Coroners are among the lowest-paid county officials, despite the critical and technical nature of their work," added Voss. "This legislation is a step toward giving them the respect and resources they deserve."

Missouri currently lacks mandatory credentialing or training requirements for coroners, though some optional training programs are incentivized. By instituting these reforms, the bill aims to enhance the professional standards and operational effectiveness of coroner offices statewide.

“This is about ensuring that every Missourian, regardless of where they live, can rely on qualified, well-trained coroners in times of need,” said Voss. “Modernizing the coroner’s office is an investment in public trust and safety.”

The bill is expected to garner bipartisan support as it moves through the legislative process in 2025.

*Rep. John Voss, a Republican, represents Cape Girardeau County, District 147, in the Missouri House of Representatives. Rep. Voss was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Voss’ office at 573-751-1443 or via email at*

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