



Missouri House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 21, 2024

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State Rep. John Voss Introduces Legislation to Establish Standards and Requirements for Missouri Coroners

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Missouri State Representative John Voss is taking proactive steps to enhance the professionalism and expertise within the coroner community across the state.

Recognizing the critical role coroners play in determining the cause and manner of death, Rep. Voss has filed **HB 2777** today aimed at establishing clear qualification standards, ensuring that individuals in these roles are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills.

The proposed legislation seeks to set a benchmark for individuals serving as coroners, emphasizing the importance of relevant education, hands-on experience, and certifications to ensure a baseline level of competency for Missouri coroners. Rep. Voss filed the legislation in an effort to ensure that the citizens of Missouri receive accurate and thorough death investigations carried out by highly qualified professionals.

“The role of our coroners is vital in determining the cause and manner of death, and to fulfill the duties of the job, it’s imperative that they possess the knowledge and skills needed to carry out these responsibilities effectively,” Voss, R-Cape Girardeau, said. “Our citizens depend on coroners for accurate answers; families rely on them to provide closure and compassion, while law enforcement relies on them to facilitate the pursuit of justice.”

The proposed legislation focuses on equipping coroners with the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct thorough investigations, handle complex cases, and interact effectively with law enforcement and other relevant stakeholders. Under the proposed legislation, Missouri coroners would be required to meet a dual set of qualifications, including equivalent certification levels of an emergency medical technician (EMT) and specialized training in death investigations.

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Rep. Voss believes that by mandating these proficiencies, coroners will be better prepared to respond to emergencies with the proper medical expertise and recognize the signs and indicators of various types of deaths they might encounter in their roles.

“By setting higher standards for training and qualifications, we are taking a significant step towards enhancing the credibility and effectiveness of the coroner's office in Missouri, ensuring that those in these roles are well-prepared for the diverse challenges they may encounter,” he said.

If passed by the Missouri General Assembly, HB 2777 would require the Coroner Standards and Training Commission to issue a comprehensive report detailing the new standards before January 1, 2025.

The proposed legislation reflects Rep. Voss's dedication to improving the quality and effectiveness of the coroner's offices in Missouri, ensuring that professionals in this field are well prepared and capable of upholding the highest standards of service to the community.

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 John.Voss@House.Mo.Gov.

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