

1                           **MEDICAL EXAMINER - TESTING FOR**  
2                           **SUBSTANCES IN CASES OF SUSPECTED**  
3                           **SUICIDE**

4                           2007 GENERAL SESSION

5                           STATE OF UTAH

6                           **Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper**

7                           Senate Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

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9                           **LONG TITLE**

10                          **General Description:**

11                          This bill amends the Utah Medical Examiner Act to provide for testing, in suicide  
12 cases, to determine the types of drugs or other substances that are present in the body of  
13 the deceased.

14                          **Highlighted Provisions:**

15                          This bill:

16                          ▶ requires the medical examiner to endeavor to have tests conducted, for the presence  
17 of certain drugs or other substances, on a sample taken from the body of a deceased  
18 person who is suspected to have committed suicide;

19                          ▶ requires the medical examiner to maintain information regarding the types of drugs  
20 detected in the tests described in the preceding paragraph;

21                          ▶ requires the Department of Health to present a report regarding the information  
22 maintained under this bill to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee, on  
23 an annual basis, beginning in 2008; and

24                          ▶ requires that, within funds appropriated by the Legislature, the medical examiner  
25 shall provide compensation, at a standard rate determined by the medical examiner,  
26 to a deputy medical examiner who collects samples for the purposes described in  
27 this bill.



28 **Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

29 None

30 **Other Special Clauses:**

31 None

32 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

33 ENACTS:

34 **26-4-28**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



36 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

37 Section 1. Section **26-4-28** is enacted to read:

38 **26-4-28. Testing for suspected suicides -- Maintaining information -- Report to the**  
39 **Health and Human Services Interim Committee -- Compensation to deputy medical**  
40 **examiners.**

41 (1) In all cases where it is suspected that a death resulted from suicide, including  
42 assisted suicide, the medical examiner shall endeavor to have the following tests conducted  
43 upon samples taken from the body of the deceased:

44 (a) a test that detects all of the substances included in the volatiles panel of the Bureau  
45 of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health;

46 (b) a test that detects all of the substances included in the drugs of abuse panel of the  
47 Bureau of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health; and

48 (c) a test that detects all of the substances included in the prescription drug panel of the  
49 Bureau of Forensic Toxicology within the Department of Health.

50 (2) The medical examiner shall maintain information regarding the types of substances  
51 found present in the samples taken from the body of a person who is suspected to have died as  
52 a result of suicide or assisted suicide.

53 (3) (a) Beginning in 2008, on or before November 30 of each year, the Department of  
54 Health shall present a report on the information described in Subsection (2) to the Health and  
55 Human Services Interim Committee.

56 (b) The information described in Subsection (3)(a) may not contain any identifying  
57 information regarding any person to whom the information described in Subsection (2) relates.

58 (4) Within funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, the medical

59 examiner shall provide compensation, at a standard rate determined by the medical examiner,  
60 to a deputy medical examiner who collects samples for the purposes described in Subsection  
61 (1).

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 1-18-07 6:04 PM**

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**

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**H.B. 302 - Medical Examiner - Testing for Substances in Cases of Suspected Suicide**

**Fiscal Note**

2007 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill requires an ongoing General Fund appropriation of \$7,200 to the Department of Health.

	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2007</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2008</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2009</u> <u>Revenue</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$7,200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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