



Washington Association
of **COUNTY OFFICIALS**

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HB 1550 / SB 5332
CORONER VITAL STATISTICS
FEE

The Death Investigation Fund pays for both basic County Coroner training, and costs associated with death investigations. Basic training for Coroners is outdated and no longer meets national accreditation standards; and the rising cost of autopsy-related testing, and toxicology lab backlogs necessitate increased use of private labs - meaning more funds are needed for the Death Investigation Fund.

Governor Inslee, WACO, and County Coroners have joined together and propose a \$3 increase in vital records fees to ensure that Coroners and Medical Examiners are well trained to conduct timely death investigations.

Updated Coroner training and timely death investigations are critical to legal death investigations and to surviving families who may require a final death certificate for insurance, pension and other sustaining funding sources following the death of a loved one.