



Washington Association
of **COUNTY OFFICIALS**

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HB 1227 / SB 5300

**CORONER SUBPOENA
AUTHORITY**

Coroners have subpoena authority only when a formal special inquest jury is called. These are very uncommon and costly. The lack of subpoena power in most of their death investigations unnecessarily delays determining a cause of death and awarding of benefits to the surviving family members.

WACO, County Coroners, and County Prosecutors propose providing Coroners subpoena power to assist in all death investigations and notification of next of kin.

A court-authorized subpoena serves the surviving family and assures a more efficient, timely and cost effective death investigation.