

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1989**

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HOUSE BILL 527  
Second Edition Engrossed 4/10/89

Short Title: Bladen Autopsies.

(Local)

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Sponsors: Representatives Nye; and Bowen.

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Referred to: Government.

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March 13, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CORONER OF BLADEN COUNTY TO ORDER  
2 AUTOPSIES TO BE PERFORMED AND TO COMPLETE THE MEDICAL  
3 CERTIFICATION OF DEATH WITH RESPECT TO DEATHS WITHIN THEIR  
4 JURISDICTIONS.  
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. The Coroner of Bladen County, so long as said coroner is a  
8 Registered and licensed Emergency Medical Technician, shall have the authority to  
9 order autopsies to be performed by persons authorized by law to perform autopsies with  
10 respect to all deaths within their jurisdictions. The coroners may order autopsies to be  
11 performed on those deceased persons receiving Veterans Benefits Administration  
12 disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs at the time of their death.  
13 The Coroner shall also have the authority to make and sign the medical certification of  
14 death with respect to all deaths where there is no evidence of foul play within their  
15 jurisdictions. The provisions of this section shall not affect the authority of the medical  
16 examiner under Article 16 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.

17 Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 130A-383, the Coroner of  
18 Bladen County may remove, or order the removal of, the body or anatomical material  
19 suspected of being or determined to be a part or parts of a human body from the scene  
20 of the death, in order that investigation may continue.

21 Sec. 2.1. Notwithstanding Sections 1 and 2, this authority shall only apply in  
22 the absence of the medical examiner or attending physician.

23 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective upon ratification.