

## Death by Fire - Autopsy

~~FOR the purpose of expanding the scope of the law relating to fire fighters who die in the line of duty by requiring the medical examiner to conduct an autopsy on any person whose death appears to be fire related, requiring the autopsy to include certain tests, and requiring the medical examiner to investigate the source of toxic fumes and the effect on human tissue in certain cases, providing that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a certain study of the feasibility of this Act by a certain date, and providing for a certain effective date for this Act subject to certain contingencies.~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the medical examiner to conduct an autopsy under certain circumstances on fire fighters whose death in the line of duty appears to be fire related, requiring the autopsy to include certain tests; requiring the medical examiner to prepare certain reports; providing that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a certain feasibility study by a certain date; and providing for a certain effective date for this Act subject to certain contingencies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General  
Section 5-310(c)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Volume and 1983 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article - Health - General

5-310.

(c) (1) [An autopsy of a fire fighter who dies in the line of duty shall include a toxicological analysis for toxic fumes.] IF THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED DOES NOT OBJECT, A MEDICAL EXAMINER SHALL CONDUCT AN AUTOPSY OF ANY PERSON FIRE FIGHTER WHOSE DEATH IN THE LINE OF DUTY APPEARS TO BE FIRE RELATED, OR TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE INHALATION OF TOXIC GASES OR TOXIC FIRE ATMOSPHERES.

(2) THE AUTOPSY SHALL INCLUDE:

- (I) A TOXICOLOGICAL ANALYSIS FOR TOXIC FUMES;
- (II) GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC STUDIES OF HEART, LUNG, AND ANY OTHER TISSUE INVOLVED;