

SENATE BILL 1497

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to post-mortem
examinations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-7-117, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a) The state medical examiner, the deputies and assistants of the state medical examiner and each county medical examiner, medical investigator, or coroner shall have the right, through the appropriate district attorney, to obtain through subpoena all medical or hospital records maintained by facilities licensed under Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33 or 68, that pertain to a case under investigation by any official named in this subsection.

(b) For purposes of this section, a case shall be considered “under investigation” during the time in which a county medical examiner, medical investigator, or coroner is conducting an initial investigation into a death pursuant to §§ 38-7-108, 38-7-109, to determine whether or not to order an autopsy.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.