

By: Representative Currie

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 457

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 41-37-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 2 1972, TO REQUIRE THAT ALL AUTOPSIES CONDUCTED IN THIS STATE  
 3 INCLUDE AN INQUIRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DEATH WAS A DIRECT  
 4 RESULT OF A SEIZURE OR EPILEPSY; TO PROVIDE THAT IF THE FINDINGS  
 5 IN AN AUTOPSY ARE CONSISTENT WITH KNOWN OR SUSPECTED SUDDEN  
 6 UNEXPECTED DEATH IN EPILEPSY (SUDEP), THEN THE MEDICAL EXAMINER,  
 7 EXAMINING PHYSICIAN, OR CORONER SHALL CAUSE TO BE INDICATED ON THE  
 8 DEATH CERTIFICATE THAT SUDEP IS THE CAUSE OR SUSPECTED CAUSE OF  
 9 DEATH, AND FORWARD A COPY OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE TO THE NORTH  
 10 AMERICAN SUDEP REGISTRY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS; AND FOR RELATED  
 11 PURPOSES.

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

13 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
 14 41-37-25, Mississippi Code of 1972:

15 41-37-25. (1) For the purposes of this section, the term  
 16 "sudden unexpected death in epilepsy" means a death in a patient  
 17 previously diagnosed with epilepsy that is not due to trauma,  
 18 drowning, status epilepticus, or other known causes, but for which  
 19 there is often evidence of an associated seizure. A finding of  
 20 sudden unexpected death in epilepsy is definite when clinical  
 21 criteria are met and autopsy reveals no alternative cause of



22 death, such as stroke, myocardial infarction or drug intoxication,  
23 although there may be evidence of a seizure.

24 (2) All autopsies conducted in this state shall include an  
25 inquiry to determine whether the death was a direct result of a  
26 seizure or epilepsy. If the findings in an autopsy of a medical  
27 examiner, examining physician, or coroner are consistent with  
28 known or suspected sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP),  
29 then the medical examiner, examining physician, or coroner shall:

30 (a) Cause to be indicated on the death certificate that  
31 SUDEP is the cause or suspected cause of death; and

32 (b) Forward a copy of the death certificate to the  
33 North American SUDEP Registry at the Langone Medical Center at New  
34 York University within thirty (30) days.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
36 and after July 1, 2020.

