



CHAPTER 130A

ARTICLE 16 - POSTMORTEM INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION

N.C.G.S. § 130A-382.

County medical examiners; appointment; term of office; vacancies; training requirements; revocation for cause.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-25, s. 29(5) — thirteenth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 05:40 UTC	5afb47de29168df015639bf5 - 345298d6108e406e5bbf73e0 - 99a860b26be204ff

§ 130A-382(a)

The Chief Medical Examiner shall appoint two or more county medical examiners for each county for a three-year term. In appointing medical examiners for each county, the Chief Medical Examiner shall give preference to physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State but may also appoint the following professionals:

- (1) Dentists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, or physical therapists as long as the appointee is licensed to practice in this State.
- (2) Emergency medical technicians or paramedics credentialed under G.S. 131E-159.
- (3) Pathologists' assistants certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.
- (4) Pathologists' assistants or medicolegal death investigators certified by a nationally recognized certifying body determined by the Chief Medical Examiner to have an appropriate certification process for pathologists' assistants or medicolegal death investigators to demonstrate readiness to serve as a county medical examiner.

A medical examiner may serve more than one county. The Chief Medical Examiner may take jurisdiction in any case or appoint another medical examiner to do so.

§ 130A-382(a1)

During a state of emergency declared by the Governor or by a resolution of the General Assembly pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20, or by the governing body of a municipality or county pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.22, the Chief Medical Examiner may appoint temporary county medical examiners to serve until the expiration of the declared state of emergency. In appointing temporary county medical examiners pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Medical Examiner may appoint any individual determined by the Chief Medical Examiner to have the appropriate training, education, and experience to serve as a county medical examiner during a declared state of emergency.

§ 130A-382(b)

County medical examiners shall complete continuing education training as directed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and based upon established and published guidelines for conducting death investigations. The continuing education training shall include training regarding (i) sudden unexpected death in epilepsy and (ii) requirements for compliance with the duties prescribed by G.S. 130A-385 and G.S. 130A-389. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall annually update and publish these guidelines on its website. Newly appointed county medical examiners shall complete mandatory orientation training as directed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner within 90 days after their appointment.

§ 130A-382(c)

The Chief Medical Examiner may revoke a county medical examiner's appointment for failure to adequately perform the duties of the office after providing the county medical examiner with written notice of the basis for the revocation and an opportunity to respond.

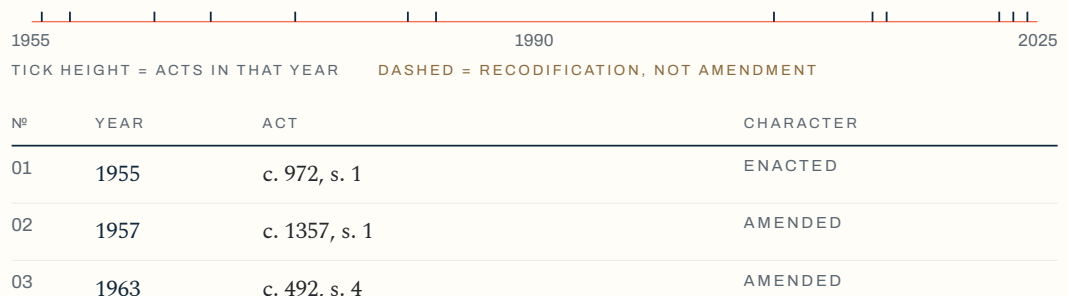
END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
13 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



04	1967	c. 1154, s. 1	AMENDED
05	1973	c. 476, s. 128	AMENDED
06	1981	c. 187, ss. 2-4	AMENDED
07	1983	c. 891, s. 2	AMENDED
08	2007	S.L. 2007-187, s. 4	AMENDED
09	2014	S.L. 2014-100, s. 12E.6(a)	AMENDED
10	2015	S.L. 2015-211, s. 1	AMENDED
11	2023	S.L. 2023-65, s. 6.2	AMENDED
12	2024	S.L. 2024-43, s. 1(a)	AMENDED
13	2025	S.L. 2025-25, s. 29(5)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
5 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 131E-159	(a)(2)	"medical technicians or paramedics credentialed under"
G.S. 166A-19.20	(a1)	"of the General Assembly pursuant to"
G.S. 166A-19.22	(a1)	"a municipality or county pursuant to"
G.S. 130A-385	(b)	"compliance with the duties prescribed by"
G.S. 130A-389	(b)	"duties prescribed by G.S. 130A-385 and"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-382 (2025).

PINPOINT
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-382(a) (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1955, c. 972, s. 1; 1957, c. 1357, s. 1; 1963, c. 492, s. 4; 1967, c. 1154, s. 1; 1973, c. 476, s. 128; 1981, c. 187, ss. 2-4; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 2007-187, s. 4; 2014-100, s. 12E.6(a); 2015-211, s. 1; 2023-65, s. 6.2; 2024-43, s. 1(a); 2025-25, s. 29(5).)

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