

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 44

Expressing the sense of the Congress that medical examiners and coroners should make reasonable, good faith efforts to locate the next of kin of deceased individuals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 1993

Mr. GOODLING (for himself and Mr. HYDE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that medical examiners and coroners should make reasonable, good faith efforts to locate the next of kin of deceased individuals.

Whereas often times families lose contact with family members, making it difficult to locate a deceased family member who has not let records regarding next of kin;

Whereas some families search for years to locate a family member, only to discover they had died and the family was never notified; and

Whereas there is not a consistent procedure used by medical examiners and coroners in the United States to follow in attempting to locate the next of kin of a deceased individual: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3           (1) the States should develop procedures that  
4       require medical examiners and coroners to make rea-  
5       sonable, good faith efforts to locate and notify the  
6       next of kin of deceased persons in situations where  
7       the identity of the deceased is unknown or is known  
8       but the identity of next of kin is unknown; and

9           (2) the reasonable, good faith efforts referred to  
10       in paragraph (1) should include, at a minimum, re-  
11       quirements that medical examiners and coroners  
12       contact the Social Security Administration and the  
13       Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain informa-  
14       tion on the background of deceased persons along  
15       with—

16           (A) checking for personal papers, phone  
17       lists, letters, and other documents at the place  
18       of death and current residence of the deceased;

19           (B) checking for a will or insurance poli-  
20       cies;

21           (C) checking local hospitals for previous  
22       admissions of the deceased;

23           (D) checking the listings in local telephone  
24       directories;

25           (E) checking city directories;

1 (F) checking law enforcement agencies;

2 (G) checking local financial institutions for  
3 possible accounts of the deceased with bene-  
4 ficiaries;

5 (H) checking with neighbors of the de-  
6 ceased;

7 (I) placing notices in local newspapers and  
8 electronic media;

9 (J) sending fingerprints of the deceased to  
10 the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

11 (K) contacting the place of employment of  
12 the deceased;

13 (L) checking with records registrar for  
14 deaths of individuals with the same name as the  
15 deceased;

16 (M) if the place of birth of the deceased is  
17 known, contacting the registrar, law enforce-  
18 ment agencies, and hospitals in that area;

19 (N) using the police telenetwork; and

20 (O) checking with the Secretary of State in  
21 the State where the deceased died.

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