

Community College District, and the limited nature of the exemption provided for in Section 1 of this act, the Legislature finds and declares that a general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution.

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting such necessity are:

The purpose of this act is to grant the Los Angeles Community College District a reasonable extension, until June 30, 1979, to continue to occupy two school buildings of the Los Angeles City College which fail to comply with earthquake safety standards prescribed by the so-called Field Act, while new facilities are being completed to replace those buildings. In order that the provisions of this act may be made effective during the periods prescribed, it is necessary that the act go into immediate effect.

CHAPTER 498

An act to amend Section 27491 of the Government Code, and to add Section 5328.8 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to coroners, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor September 2, 1977. Filed with
Secretary of State September 3, 1977]

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 27491 of the Government Code is amended to read:

27491. It shall be the duty of the coroner to inquire into and determine the circumstances, manner, and cause of all violent, sudden or unusual deaths; unattended deaths; deaths wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the 20 days before death; deaths related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion; known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning; deaths known or suspected as resulting in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury either old or recent; deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, acute alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation, aspiration, or where the suspected cause of death is sudden infant death syndrome; death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means; deaths associated with a known or alleged rape or crime against nature; deaths of patients in hospitals operated by the State Department of Health or any successor agency; deaths in prison or while under sentence; deaths known or suspected as due to contagious disease and constituting a public hazard; deaths from occupational diseases or occupational hazards;

deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another, or any deaths reported by physicians or other persons having knowledge of death for inquiry by coroner. Inquiry in this section does not include those investigative functions usually performed by other law enforcement agencies.

In any case in which the coroner conducts an inquiry pursuant to this section, the coroner or a deputy shall personally sign the certificate of death.

The coroner shall have discretion to determine the extent of inquiry to be made into any death occurring under natural circumstances and falling within the provisions of this section, and if inquiry determines that the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of a death occurring under natural circumstances, the coroner may authorize that physician to sign the certificate of death.

SEC. 2. Section 5328.8 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

5328.8. The State Department of Health, the physician in charge of the patient, or the professional person in charge of the facility or his designee, shall release all factual and clinical treatment information obtained in the course of providing services under Division 5 (commencing with Section 5000), Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000), or Division 7 (commencing with Section 7000), to the coroner when a patient dies from any cause, natural or otherwise, while hospitalized in a state mental hospital. Such information, when released to the coroner, shall remain confidential and shall be sealed and shall not be made part of the public record.

SEC. 3. The sum of thirty-seven thousand dollars (\$37,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the State Controller for allocation and disbursement to local agencies pursuant to Section 2231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code to reimburse such agencies for costs incurred by them pursuant to this act.

CHAPTER 499

An act to add Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 493.010) to Title 6.5 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure, relating to attachment.

[Approved by Governor September 2, 1977. Filed with
Secretary of State September 3, 1977.]

The people of the State of California do enact as follows: