State of Arkansas  
82nd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 1999  

A Bill  
Act 499 of 1999  
SENATE BILL 222  

By: Senator Brown  
By: Representative Salmon  

For An Act To Be Entitled  
"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 5-28-204 TO REQUIRE  
THAT ALL NURSING HOME RESIDENT DEATHS BE REPORTED TO  
THE COUNTY CORONER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle  
"TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 5-28-204 TO  
REQUIRE THAT ALL NURSING HOME RESIDENT  
DEATHS BE REPORTED TO THE COUNTY  
CORONER."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 5-28-204 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
"5-28-204. Persons required to report abuse.  
(a) Any person or official who is required to report cases of suspected  
abuse of adults under the provisions of this chapter, who has reasonable cause  
to suspect that an adult has died as a result of abuse, sexual abuse, or  
negligence, shall report that fact to the appropriate medical examiner or  
coroner. In all cases of death of a long-term care facility resident, the  
long-term care facility shall immediately report the death to the appropriate  
coroner. The report is required regardless of whether the facility believes  
the death to be from natural causes or the result of abuse, sexual abuse, or  
negligence, or any other cause. In all cases of death of an individual in a  
hospital who was a resident of a long-term care facility within five (5) days  
of entering the hospital, the hospital shall immediately report the death to  
the appropriate coroner. The report is required regardless of whether the  
facility believes the death to be from natural cause or the result of abuse,
(b) The medical examiner or coroner shall accept the report for investigation and upon finding reasonable cause to suspect that an adult has died as a result of abuse, sexual abuse, or negligence shall report his findings to the police, and the appropriate prosecuting attorney, and, if the institution making the report is a hospital, or nursing home, the coroner shall report his findings to the hospital or nursing home unless the findings are part of a pending or ongoing law enforcement investigation.”

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

/s/ Brown

APPROVED: 3/9/1999