

SENATE BILL 2706

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8,
Chapter 4 and Title 41, relative to inmate deaths.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 21, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) The comptroller of the treasury has the power to review the death of any inmate incarcerated in a state correctional facility at the time of the inmate's death in order to determine:

(1) The circumstances surrounding the inmate's death, including identifying any act or omission by the facility or any employee or agent of the facility that may have directly or indirectly contributed to the inmate's death; and

(2) Whether the facility was in compliance with the requirements of this part.

(b) In conducting a review pursuant to this section, the comptroller may exercise the power granted under title 8, chapter 4, part 2 to require testimony and issue subpoenas.

(c) Upon completion of a review conducted pursuant to this section, the comptroller shall submit a detailed report of the findings to the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives. The report may contain recommendations for changes to the minimum standards for the construction, equipment, administration, and operation of state correctional facilities in order to prevent problems, abuses, and deficiencies in state correctional facilities. The comptroller shall maintain the confidentiality of any confidential records or information

obtained from a facility during the course of a review in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

(e) The comptroller shall publish an annual report summarizing all reviews of inmate deaths conducted by the comptroller in the prior year. The report must include any trends or similarities among the deaths of inmates in state correctional facilities and present recommendations on policy changes to reduce the number of deaths in state correctional facilities. The comptroller shall publish the report on the website of the office of the comptroller and submit the report to the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives by March 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.