

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Health and Welfare to which was referred Senate Bill
3 No. 210 entitled “An act relating to access to autopsy reports” respectfully
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the bill be
5 amended in Sec. 1, 18 V.S.A. § 505, in subsection (b), by striking out
6 subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2)
7 to read as follows:

8 (2)(A) An individual who is not authorized to receive the autopsy report
9 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection (b) may petition the Probate
10 Division of the Superior Court for a copy of the autopsy report. The petition
11 shall contain an affidavit attesting to the petitioner’s relationship to the
12 decedent and the reason the petitioner is seeking the autopsy report. The
13 petitioner shall notify the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and the State’s
14 Attorney of the county in which the death occurred within five days after filing
15 the petition. The Office and the State’s Attorney shall have an opportunity to
16 respond within 10 days after notice. If the Superior Court finds that the
17 petitioner has demonstrated good cause for the petitioner to obtain the autopsy
18 report, it shall order the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to provide a
19 copy to the petitioner, in whole or in part, and may place restrictions on the
20 petitioner’s dissemination of the copy provided.

(v) the availability of similar information in other public records regardless of form.

FOR THE COMMITTEE