

From: [Venters, Rusty](#)
To: [Dion, Shannon \(GOV\)](#)
Subject: SB 1102
Date: Friday, March 10, 2017 4:56:27 PM

March 9, 2017

Dear Public Safety Secretary Brian Moran:

I am writing in opposition to SB 1102 in its current form, which passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate and is now being considered by Governor McAuliffe. As presented, this bill will mandate completed unattended death investigations be released to the parent, spouse, or the most immediate family member to the decedent.

When conducting investigations into the unattended death as defined by SB 1102, agencies record significant information found both at the scene and discovered during the investigation. Often times the condition the body is found to be involved in circumstances that may shock or repulse family members that may not aware of a person's lifestyle or life choices. There may also be evidence of a questionable nature again of life choices that the family may not be aware.

Furthermore there is personal information of individuals that are identified during the investigation that may aid in the understanding the events prior to the death, aid in determining the cause of death or were present at the time of the death. If the identity of these witnesses is disclosed they could become a target for a family member that may not be able to accept the choices of the decedent.

These are just a couple of concerns with the mandatory disclosure of the file to family members. Often times, Police and Sheriff personnel meet with the family members of decedents to discuss the circumstances of the death while being able to protect the integrity of the investigation and those involved. We are requesting that §2.2-3706 remain as written in the Code of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Captain Rusty Venters
Portsmouth Police Department
Portsmouth, Virginia