

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ROS

L.D. 540

Date: 5/12/25

(Filing No. H-44)

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 359, L.D. 540, "An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 14, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§3028-A. Disposal of unidentified human remains and abandoned human remains; identification

This section governs the storage, identification, disposition and expenses related to human remains.

1. Storage and disposition of human remains. Whenever unidentified human remains are recovered, the Chief Medical Examiner may store the remains, release them to an educational institution, inter them in an appropriate resting place or have them cremated in accordance with this section. Ashes of remains cremated may be disposed of in any appropriate manner. Human remains uncovered in a cared-for cemetery are excluded from the operation of this subsection. Human remains known to be Indian remains are excluded from the operation of this subsection and must be handled in the manner required by section 2842-B.

The Chief Medical Examiner may assume responsibility for the disposal of identified human remains of a deceased resident of this State that are the subject of a medical examiner case if no one takes custody and control of the human remains for a period of 15 days after the Chief Medical Examiner has completed an autopsy or necessary examination of the human remains, made reasonable inquiry under section 3028-D, subsection 1 and satisfied the requirements of subsection 2. Such abandoned remains may be interred or cremated. The Chief Medical Examiner shall file or cause to be filed a certificate of abandonment in the municipality where the human remains were recovered that indicates the means of disposal.

In the absence of a responsible party, payment of expenses incurred by the Chief Medical Examiner pursuant to this section must be made pursuant to section 3028-D, subsection 2

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

as if the remains were unidentified. The Chief Medical Examiner may seek to recover costs from the estate or municipality of residence of the deceased.

2. Identification of human remains using DNA. After the Chief Medical Examiner has had possession of unidentified human remains for 45 days, the Chief Medical Examiner shall test the deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, of the unidentified human remains using forensic genetic genealogy testing. For purposes of this subsection, "forensic genetic genealogy testing" means a DNA analysis of a sample of biological material by a laboratory to develop a profile and search for that profile in a database of personal genomics or using a direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy service.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412

Initiative: Provides funding to contract with a DNA laboratory to extract DNA profiles and conduct genetic research.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$9,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$9,000

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section and makes a technical change.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 03/12/25 ~~LRL~~

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 540

LR 1632(02)

An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-144)
Committee: Health and Human Services
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$100,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$100,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 and ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$9,000 beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 to the Department of the Attorney General to contract with a DNA lab to extract DNA profiles and conduct genetic research.