

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
103rd LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S. P. 759, L.D. 1816, Bill, "An Act Establishing Procedures for State Medical Examiners and Creating the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Maine."

Amend said Bill in section 2 by striking out all of the 3rd underlined sentence of that part designated "§3022" and inserting in place thereof the following underlined sentence:

'The Chief Medical Examiner shall possess a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy, be licensed to practice in the State of Maine and be certified in the speciality of forensic pathology by either the American Board of Pathology or the American Osteopathic Board of Pathology.'

Further amend said Bill in section 2 (same in L.D. 1816) by striking out all of that part designated "§3025" and inserting in place thereof the following underlined section:

'§3025. - Reports of deaths

Whoever finds the body of any person who is supposed to have come to his death by violence or by the action of chemical, thermal or electrical agents, or following abortion, or suddenly when not disabled by recognizable disease or who has come to his death unexplained or unattended, shall immediately notify one of the municipal officers, a police officer or constable if in a city or town; or a member of the board of assessors if in a plantation; and if in an unorganized place, the most readily accessible of such officials in any municipality within the county. Such official shall immediately take charge of such body and retain custody thereof without moving the same, except as otherwise provided, until the arrival of a medical examiner, the county attorney, the sheriff or a member of the State Police. The official taking charge of said body shall immediately notify the county attorney, sheriff or any member of the State Police, who shall in turn arrange for the attendance of the most readily accessible medical examiner. If the body, where found, is in danger of being destroyed or damaged by fire, vehicular traffic or otherwise, or of being lost in any body of water, any person may take steps as may seem necessary for its preservation or retention prior to the arrival of the medical examiner, sheriff, a member of the State Police or the county attorney, but in such event shall first, whenever practicable, exactly mark the location and position of the body. If no such danger exists, the body shall not be moved until the arrival of a representative of the Attorney General and until photographs have been taken or measurements and drawings have been made to record the physical facts relative to the location and position of the body, under the supervision of the county attorney, the State Police or sheriff, or unless the Attorney General or the county attorney waives such requirements. After such photographs or such measurements and drawings have been made or have been waived and after the

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medical examiner has completed such examination as required of him in section 3027, the body may be removed to a convenient place. The body shall not be finally released for embalming or burial, except by order of the Chief Medical Examiner. If and when it shall appear that the case is one of probably homicide, the Attorney General shall be immediately notified of the fact.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1968 and the sum of \$100,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1969 to the Chief Medical Examiner to be expended in the promotion and carrying out the objectives of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>
OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER		
Personal Services	(2) \$15,000	(2) \$36,193
All Other	33,000	63,307
Capital Expenditures	<u>2,000</u>	<u>500</u>
	\$50,000	\$100,000'

Reported to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

Reproduced and distributed pursuant to Senate Rule No. 11A.

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