

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1696

H.P. 1248

House of Representatives, March 20, 2001

**An Act to Allow the Chief Medical Examiner to Assume the
Responsibility for the Disposition of Certain Dead Bodies.**

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.
Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative KANE of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028-D is enacted to read:

6 **§3028-D. Disposal of identified dead bodies without connection
to State and unidentified dead bodies**

8 When an identified dead body of a deceased nonresident of
10 this State or an unidentified dead body is the subject of a
12 medical examiner case and, notwithstanding reasonable inquiry by
14 the Chief Medical Examiner, no next of kin, other person or
16 governmental unit is willing to take responsibility for
disposition of the body, the Chief Medical Examiner may assume
responsibility for proper disposition. Any necessary expenses
incurred by the Chief Medical Examiner must be paid by the
Department of Human Services.

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20 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill adds a new provision to the Medical Examiner Act
24 to allow the Chief Medical Examiner to assume responsibility for
26 proper disposition of dead bodies of identified nonresidents or
28 unidentified dead bodies that are the subject of medical examiner
cases when no other person or governmental unit is willing to
take responsibility for disposition. The necessary expenses
incurred by the Chief Medical Examiner are to be paid by the
Department of Human Services.