

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

Legislative Document

No. 1349

H.P. 990

House of Representatives, March 29, 2011

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Handling of Medical Examiner Cases

Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Clerk

Presented by Representative NASS of Acton.
Cosponsored by Senator HASTINGS of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 291, §6, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **6. Examination of body.** In all cases ~~except those requiring a report on a body~~
5 ~~already disposed of and not to be exhumed for examination~~, the medical examiner or the
6 person expressly authorized by the Chief Medical Examiner shall conduct a thorough
7 examination of the body except in those cases when the body has already been disposed
8 of and is not being exhumed or when the Chief Medical Examiner or Deputy Chief
9 Medical Examiner determines, after review of available records and known
10 circumstances, that the report of the death of the decedent may be certified and completed
11 without examining the body.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 Current law requires that the medical examiner or the person expressly authorized by
14 the Chief Medical Examiner conduct a thorough examination of a body in a medical
15 examiner case. This bill provides an exception for a case in which the Chief Medical
16 Examiner or the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner determines, after review of available
17 records and known circumstances, that the report of the death of the decedent may be
18 certified and completed without examining the body.