

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

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H. P. No. 547

H. D. No. 118

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House of Representatives, Feb. 12, 1925.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for Concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Mitchell of Houlton.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT Relating to the Authority of Medical Examiners.

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

Chapter One Hundred Forty-one as amended by chapter  
2 two hundred fifty-two of the Public Laws of nineteen hun-  
3 dred seventeen, is hereby further amended by striking out  
4 the whole of section three thereof and inserting in place  
5 thereof the following: Upon notice that there has been  
6 found or is lying within his county the body of a person  
7 who is supposed to have come to his death by violence or  
8 unlawful act, of some person or persons, the committing  
9 of which act is punishable in accordance with sections one,  
10 two and three of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised

11 statutes, the medical examiner or such competent person  
12 who shall have been deputed therefor by such examiner,  
13 shall forthwith repair to the place where such body lies  
14 and take charge of the same and before said body is re-  
15 moved he shall reduce or cause to be reduced to writing a  
16 description of the location and position of the body and  
17 any and all facts that may be deemed important in deter-  
18 mining the cause of death. He shall then make an autopsy  
19 in the presence of one or more physicians by him selected,  
20 and one other discreet person sufficient in his judgment to  
21 disclose such facts as may be attainable thereby which may  
22 be of assistance in determining the cause of death. For  
23 the purposes mentioned in this section, he may compel the  
24 assistants of such physicians and person, the attendance of  
25 witnesses and the production of papers and other necessary  
26 evidence by subpoena if necessary, administer oaths and  
27 certify to his official acts. He may at the expense of the  
28 county wherein such body is found, secure the services of  
29 a competent stenographer to take in his presence the testi-  
30 mony of such witnesses, and to transcribe the same. He  
31 shall then and there, at the time of such autopsy reduce or  
32 cause to be reduced to writing every fact and circumstance  
33 disclosed by such autopsy tending to show the manner and  
34 cause of death, which record shall be signed by himself  
35 and the witnesses who have attended, who shall in addition  
36 to their names subscribe their address and place of business.  
37 He shall file forthwith with the county attorney of such

38 county, and with the attorney general a report of each such  
39 autopsy and view and of his personal inquiries and of his  
40 findings therein. In case at the time of finding of such  
41 body there be no medical examiner within the county by  
42 reason of vacancy in the office, incapacity or absence from  
43 the county, any medical examiner in an adjoining county  
44 may be notified whose duty it shall be to attend and per-  
45 form all duties prescribed by this chapter as though he  
46 were a medical examiner within the county.'