

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5761

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires feasibility study to examine establishment of regional medical examiner office facility in Southern New Jersey and collaborative development of new medical examiner education initiatives; appropriates \$40,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee on November 15, 2021, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 AN ACT establishing a feasibility study related to medical examiner
 2 services and training in Southern New Jersey and making an
 3 appropriation.

4
 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 6 *of New Jersey:*

7
 8 1. a. The Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner shall
 9 contract with an appropriate entity to conduct a feasibility study
 10 related to addressing the needs and enhancing the operations of the
 11 Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner in the southern region
 12 of the State. The feasibility study shall examine:

13 (1) the development of a regional State Medical Examiner's
 14 Office facility in the southern region of the State, which shall
 15 include an assessment of:

16 (a) the anticipated need for a regional facility, including a
 17 determination of the likelihood that the State Medical Examiner's
 18 Office will assume jurisdiction over additional county medical
 19 examiner offices;

20 (b) the size of facility that would be needed to meet regional
 21 needs, including the size of the physical plant and anticipated
 22 staffing needs;

23 (c) the advantages and disadvantages of establishing morgue
 24 facilities and administrative offices in a single location;

25 (d) the advantages and disadvantages of constructing a new
 26 facility as opposed to adapting an existing facility for this purpose;
 27 **'[and]'**

28 (e) the costs of acquiring and maintaining a computerized
 29 tomography scanner; ¹and

30 (f) the advantages and disadvantages of accommodating on-site
 31 forensic testing services, as well as partnering with one or more
 32 institutions of higher education to facilitate data collection and
 33 research with the goal of informing public health policy;¹

34 (2) **'[collaborating] collaboration'**¹ with one or more medical
 35 schools operating in the southern region of the State to establish a
 36 forensic medical examiner fellowship program, develop a death
 37 investigation program for medicolegal investigators and law
 38 enforcement, **'[enhancing] enhance'**¹ education and training for
 39 medical students and medical residents related to forensic medical
 40 examination, and **'[establishing] establish'**¹ new graduate and
 41 undergraduate courses in forensic medical examination ¹, and invest
 42 in and expand graduate and undergraduate courses in the forensic
 43 sciences in New Jersey institutions of higher education¹ ; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted November 15, 2021.

- 1 (3) any legislation, administrative action, or other governmental
2 action that may be needed to implement any recommendations
3 included in the report produced from the feasibility study.
- 4 b. The Office of the State Medical Examiner shall transmit a
5 copy of the report produced from the feasibility study conducted
6 pursuant to subsection a. of this section to the Governor and,
7 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
8 Legislature.
- 9 c. There is appropriated to the Office of the Chief State
10 Medical Examiner from the General Fund the sum of \$40,000 for
11 the purposes of contracting with an appropriate entity to conduct the
12 feasibility study required under this section.
- 13
- 14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.