

SENATE, No. 3815

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 20, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

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 introduced.



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:*

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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;

30 (2) collaborating with one or more medical schools operating in
31 the southern region of the State to establish a forensic medical
32 examiner fellowship program, develop a death investigation
33 program for medicolegal investigators and law enforcement,
34 enhancing education and training for medical students and medical
35 residents related to forensic medical examination, and establishing
36 new graduate and undergraduate courses in forensic medical
37 examination; and

38 (3) any legislation, administrative action, or other governmental
39 action that may be needed to implement any recommendations
40 included in the report produced from the feasibility study.

41 b. The Office of the State Medical Examiner shall transmit a
42 copy of the report produced from the feasibility study conducted
43 pursuant to subsection a. of this section to the Governor and,
44 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
45 Legislature.

46 c. There is appropriated to the Office of the Chief State
47 Medical Examiner from the General Fund the sum of \$40,000 for

1 the purposes of contracting with an appropriate entity to conduct the
2 feasibility study required under this section.

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4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill requires the Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner
10 (Office) to contract with an appropriate entity to conduct a
11 feasibility study related to addressing the needs and enhancing the
12 operations of the Office in the southern region of the State.

13 Specifically, the feasibility study will examine:

14 1) the development of a regional Chief State Medical Examiner
15 Office facility in the southern region of the State, including an
16 assessment of: the anticipated need for a regional facility; the size
17 of facility that would be needed to meet regional needs, including
18 the size of the physical plant and anticipated staffing needs; the
19 advantages and disadvantages of establishing morgue facilities and
20 administrative offices in a single location; the advantages and
21 disadvantages of constructing a new facility as opposed to adapting
22 an existing facility for this purpose; and the costs of acquiring and
23 maintaining a computerized tomography scanner; and

24 2) collaborating with one or more medical schools operating in
25 the southern region of the State to establish a forensic medical
26 examiner fellowship program, develop a death investigation
27 program for medicolegal investigators and law enforcement,
28 enhance education and training for medical students and medical
29 residents related to forensic medical examination, and establish new
30 graduate and undergraduate courses in forensic medical
31 examination.

32 The feasibility study is to additionally include recommendations
33 for legislation, administrative action, or other governmental action
34 that may be needed to implement any recommendations included in
35 the report of the feasibility study. The Office will be required to
36 transmit a copy of the report of the feasibility study to the Governor
37 and to the Legislature.

38 The bill appropriates the sum of \$40,000 to the Office from the
39 General Fund for the purposes of contracting with an appropriate
40 entity to conduct the feasibility study required under the bill.