

[First Reprint]

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 reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 10, 2021, with amendments.



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 of
 12 the State. The feasibility study shall examine:

13 (1) the development of a regional State Medical Examiner's Office
 14 facility in the southern region of the State, which shall include an
 15 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 needs,
 21 including the size of the physical plant and anticipated staffing needs;

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

24 (d) the advantages and disadvantages of constructing a new facility
 25 as opposed to adapting an existing facility for this purpose; **['and']**¹

26 (e) the costs of acquiring and maintaining a computerized
 27 tomography scanner; ¹and

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

32 (2) **['collaborating']** collaboration¹ with one or more medical
 33 schools operating in the southern region of the State to establish a
 34 forensic medical examiner fellowship program, develop a death
 35 investigation program for medicolegal investigators and law
 36 enforcement, **['enhancing']** enhance¹ education and training for
 37 medical students and medical residents related to forensic medical
 38 examination, **['and establishing']** establish¹ new graduate and
 39 undergraduate courses in forensic medical examination ¹, and invest in
 40 and expand graduate and undergraduate courses in the forensic
 41 sciences in New Jersey institutions of higher education¹; and

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

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted June 10, 2021.

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