

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 52:17B-79

(Transfer the Division of  
Medicial Examination to  
the Division of Criminal  
Justice)

LAWS OF: 1972

CHAPTER: 13

Bill No: S507

Sponsor(s): Beadleston

Date Introduced: January 31, 1972

Committee: Assembly: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: April 6, 1972

Senate: March 13, 1972

Date of Approval: April 17, 1972

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statements: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly No

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: Yes

Hearings: No

Report, mentioned in statments:

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature: Joint Committee to Study the Report of the  
R424 Governor's Management Commission.  
1971d Final report and recommendations. December, 1971. Trenton, 1971.  
(see p. 87 & appendix C.).

SENATE, No. 507

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 31, 1972

By Senator BEADLESTON

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT to amend the "State Medical Examiner Act," approved November 20, 1967 (P. L. 1967, c. 234) and transferring the powers, duties and functions of the State Medical Examiner to an office of the State Medical Examiner in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Section 2 of P. L. 1967, c. 234 (C. 52:17B-79) is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 2. There is hereby established *in the Division of Criminal Justice*  
4 *in the State Department of Law and Public Safety* [the Division  
5 of State Medical Examination. The division shall be under the  
6 immediate supervision of a director, who shall be known as] *the*  
7 *office of the "State Medical Examiner"* [and] *which shall be under*  
8 *the immediate supervision of an officer to be known as the State*  
9 *Medical Examiner* who shall be a duly licensed physician, a  
10 graduate of a regularly chartered and legally constituted medical  
11 school or college and a qualified forensic pathologist. He shall be  
12 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the  
13 Senate, and shall serve for a term of 5 years and until his successor  
14 is appointed and has qualified. He shall receive such salary as  
15 shall be provided by law. The Attorney General shall, subject to  
16 provisions of Title 11 of the Revised Statutes relating to Civil  
17 Service, appoint such other personnel as he may consider necessary  
18 for the efficient performance of the work of the division. He shall  
19 prescribe the duties of all such persons thus appointed and shall  
20 fix their compensation within the limits of available appropriations.

1 2. The State Medical Examiner in office shall continue in office  
2 for the term for which appointed and until his successor is  
3 appointed.

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

1 3. The transfer to be made pursuant to this act shall be made in  
2 accordance with the "State Agency Transfer Act," P. L. 1971,  
3 c. 375 (C. 52:14D-1 et seq.).

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

This bill would provide for the transfer of the Division of Medical Examination to the Division of Criminal Justice within the Department of Law and Public Safety. It would implement Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice Recommendation 1 of the Report of the Governor's Management Commission.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
SENATE, No. 507

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 1972

In 1967 the Legislature passed the State Medical Examiner Act which created in the Department of Law and Public Safety a Division of Medical Examination supervised by a State Medical Examiner. The act also established the office of county medical examiner, under the State Medical Examiner, and abolished the offices of county coroner and county physician. One of the primary purposes of the State Medical Examiner Act was to replace an archaic and unreliable system of determining the causes of violent or suspicious deaths with a modern and coordinated statewide program of forensic pathology which would, among other things, complement criminal law enforcement efforts throughout New Jersey.

Three years after the division was created, the Legislature established also within the Department of Law and Public Safety a new Division of Criminal Justice. In many respects, the activities of the Division of Medical Examination provide an integral, complementary and supportive role to the responsibilities of the new division. From an administrative viewpoint alone, the Governor's Management Commission recommended it would be more practical to transfer the Division of Medical Examination to the Division of Criminal Justice within the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Senate Bill No. 507 is designed to implement the commission's recommendations.