

Legislative History Checklist
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Synopsis: Requires reimbursement for certain State Medical Examiner services.

Bill No.: S2150

P.L. 1995, c. 154

Identical to: A2962
Substituted for: A2962
Combined with:
Last Session Bill No.:

See Above Bill(s) for Additional History

NJSA: 52:17B-83

Sponsor(s): Kyrillos

Date Introduced: 06/12/95

Committee Reference:

Statement:

Public Hearing:

Assembly:

(Without reference)

Senate:

Budget and Appropriations

Yes

No

Sponsor Statement: Yes

Fiscal Note: Yes

Dates of Passage:

Assembly:

06/28/95 (75-0)

Senate:

06/22/95 (25-14)

Amended During Passage: No

Governor's Action:

Veto: No

Date of Veto:

Date of Approval: 06/30/95

Message on Signing: No

Additional Information:

1 AN ACT concerning the Office of the State Medical Examiner
2 and amending P.L.1967, c.234.

3

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

6 1. Section 6 of P.L.1967, c.234 (C.52:17B-83) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 6. The office of county medical examiner is hereby created
9 and shall be maintained in each county, except that several
10 counties may jointly maintain the office on a cooperative basis.
11 The office shall be directed by a county medical examiner who
12 shall be appointed by the board or boards of chosen freeholders of
13 the county or counties maintaining such office for a term of five
14 years; provided, however, that any person in office as county
15 physician or chief medical examiner on the effective date of this
16 act shall continue as county medical examiner until the
17 expiration of the term for which he was appointed. The county
18 medical examiner shall be a licensed physician, of recognized
19 ability and good standing in his community, with such training or
20 experience as may be prescribed by standards promulgated by the
21 State Medical Examiner by rule or regulation.

22 If the board of chosen freeholders shall fail to appoint a county
23 medical examiner or if the office of county medical examiner
24 shall become vacant or upon the written request of any
25 assignment judge of the Superior Court or of the board of chosen
26 freeholders of the county, the State Medical Examiner shall
27 designate one of his assistants to perform the duties of the
28 office. Whenever the State Medical Examiner shall have taken
29 over the duties of a county medical examiner, he shall have all
30 the authority conferred by law upon a county medical examiner
31 and he may appoint such [temporary] assistants, aides,
32 investigators or other personnel as he may deem necessary. In
33 such event, [there shall be paid, by] the treasurer of the county or
34 counties, as the case may be, [such sum for this service as the
35 assignment judge of the Superior Court of the county or counties
36 shall certify and fix, on the application of the State Medical
37 Examiner, provided, that the compensation allowed shall not
38 exceed that provided by law for the payment of the county
39 medical examiner in said county or counties for the same or
40 similar services] shall reimburse the Office of the State Medical
41 Examiner or its designee for all costs incurred in properly
42 conducting the county's death investigations and performing all
43 other functions of the county medical examiner.

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.

1 The State Medical Examiner may promulgate rules and
2 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
3 P.L.1989, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of
4 this section.

5 (cf: P.L.1991, c.91, s.499)

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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9 STATEMENT

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11 This bill requires counties to fully reimburse the Office of the
12 State Medical Examiner for all its costs incurred in properly
13 conducting the county's death investigations and performing all
14 other functions of the county medical examiner. Current law
15 requires the State Medical Examiner to supersede county medical
16 examiner offices in counties that fail to perform these services.
17 Supersession was intended as a temporary solution to provide
18 emergency services to counties. However, it has evolved into a
19 surrogate arrangement in which the State has not been fully
20 reimbursed for its services.

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25 Requires reimbursement for certain State Medical Examiner
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SENATE, No. 2150

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 12, 1995

By Senator KYRILLOS

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SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2150

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 19, 1995

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2150.

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As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2962 of 1995 (Holzapfel).

FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of Legislative Services notes that the Governor's Office and the Department of Law and Public Safety have informally estimated that enactment of this legislation would result in collecting approximately \$1 million annually for reimbursement of services.

According to information provided by the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, OLS estimates that this bill would cost the counties \$1,133,000, \$1,201,000, and \$1,273,000 during the first three years after enactment, respectively if service levels remain unchanged.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

SENATE, No. 2150

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: July 7, 1995

Senate Bill No. 2150 of 1995 requires counties to reimburse the Office of the State Medical Examiner (SME) for all its costs incurred in properly conducting the county's death investigations and performing all other functions of the county medical examiner. Current law requires the SME to supersede county medical examiner offices in counties that fail to perform these services. Supersession was intended as a temporary solution to provide emergency services to counties. However, it has evolved into surrogate arrangement in which the State has not been fully reimbursed for its services.

In FY 1995, medical examiner services to Essex, Somerset, Hudson, Gloucester, and Somerset counties are expected to cost the State approximately \$1.1 million, according to information provided by the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Based on this information, OLS estimates enactment of this bill would cost the counties \$1,133,230, \$1,201,224 and \$1,273,297 during the first three years after enactment, respectively, if service levels remain unchanged. The second and third year cost estimates were derived by applying a 6 percent annual inflation rate to the estimated FY 1995 costs.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.