

HB

520

HFIN

FILE

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 520

House Bill 520 will create a unified death investigation system under the authority of the State Medical Examiner in the Department of Health and Social Services. The bill will position the State to enter the 21st century with a professional medical examiner system better able to both support the criminal justice system and to investigate deaths of concern to public health officers.

The bill has a net zero cost with funds transferred from the Court System to the Department of Health and Social Services to reflect the transfer of death investigation responsibilities.

Specifically, the bill

- Establishes a unified system within the executive branch for determining the cause and manner of death in suspicious or unusual circumstances;
- Better supports law enforcement and public health efforts;
- Eliminates duplication and inefficiency in death investigations by abolishing the position of coroner in the judicial branch and transferring the coroner's investigative functions to the state medical examiner in the executive branch of government;
- Retains inquests and other judicial processes within the judicial branch of government; and
- Places responsibility and management of medical death investigations in a single agency to better control costs.

(11)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: March 6, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/13/96

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 520

HOUSE BILL NO. 520

INQUESTS, CORONERS, POST MORTEMS, ETC.

"An Act relating to death investigations and inquests, coroners, public administrators, and medical examiners, including the state medical examiner; relating to the jurisdiction of district court judges and magistrates in certain cases involving death."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute

CS HB 520 (FIN)

[x] the same title [] a new title

[] additional referral to _____ Committee [] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

2 [x] fiscal note(s) AK COURT SYS D HSS

[] fiscal note(s) _____

[] zero fiscal note(s) _____

[x] zero fiscal note(s) DPS

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Richard Foster</i> FOSTER	X			
<i>Mark Hanky</i> Hanky	X			
<i>William Mulder</i> Mulder	X			
<i>Johnny Grussendorf</i> Grussendorf	X			
<i>Ray Brown</i> Brown	X			
<i>Gene Therrault</i> Therrault	X			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Mark Hanky* *Richard Foster*
Hanky Foster

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO: bill Version: HB 520
(H) Publish Date: 3/6/96

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 Title: Inquests, Coroners, Post Mortems, etc. BRU: Alaska State Troopers
 Component: Detachments and CIB
 Sponsor: House Finance Committee
 Requestor: H. Judiciary **COMPONENT SERIAL NO.** 0799 and 0830

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CHANGE IN REVENUES () Revenue Code	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 96) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Prepared By: Lt. Dan Lowden Phone: 465-5505
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: February 27, 1996
 Approved by Commissioner: *Del Smith* Date: 2/28/96
 Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Department of Public Safety

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COMMITTEE COPY

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 520 (FIN)

Revision Date: 03/12/96 Dept. Affectec: Alaska Court System
 Title: Inquests, Coroners, Post Mortems, etc. BRU: Trial Courts
 Component: _____
 Sponsor: House Finance
 Requester: House Finance COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 758

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES:	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES	(287.6)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS & CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	(287.6)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						

Fund Source (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1007 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)	(287.5)

Estimate of any current year (FY 96) cost: None

Positions

Full-Time	(4.75)	(4.75)	(4.75)	(4.75)	(4.75)	(4.75)
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will transfer coroner duties to the Department of Health & Social Services.

Prepared by: C. S. Christensen III, Staff Counsel Phone: 264-8228
 Agency: Alaska Court System Date: 03/12/96
 Approved by: Arthur H. Snowden, II, Administrative Director Date: 03/12/96
 Agency: Alaska Court System

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STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSHB 520 (Fin)

Revision Date: 03/07/96 Dept. Affected: Health and Social Services
 Title: An act relating to death investigations and ERU: State Health Services
inquests, coroners, public administrators, etc. Component: State Medical Examiner
 Sponsor: House Finance COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 293
 Requestor: House Finance See also (SN#): _____

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02
PERSONAL SERVICES	219.8	225.3	230.9	236.7	242.6	248.7
TRAVEL	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0
CONTRACTUAL	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
SUPPLIES	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
EQUIPMENT	30.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	287.6	263.1	268.7	274.5	280.4	286.5

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGES IN REVENUES						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	287.6	263.1	268.7	274.5	280.4	286.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (please specify)						
TOTAL	287.6	263.1	268.7	274.5	280.4	286.5

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: 10.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	5	5	5	5	5	5
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This fiscal note is a funding transfer between the Alaska Court System and the Department of Health and Social Services to accommodate the transfer of responsibilities associated with HB 520.

The Court System is transferring \$287.6 GF for the following Lines:

Line 100 - \$219.8 in Personal Services
 Investigator I, range 14, PFT, GGU, Anchorage
 Investigator I, range 14, PFT, GGU, Anchorage
 Investigator I, range 14, PFT, GGU, Anchorage
 Investigator II, range 16, PFT, GGU, Anchorage
 Administrative Clerk II, range 8, PFT, GGU, Anchorage

Inflation factor of 2.5% is built in for FY98 and later years

Prepared by: Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH
 Division: Public Health
 Approved by Com: Karen Perdue, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health & Social Services

Phone: (907) 465-3090
 Date: 03/07/96
 Date: 3/7/96

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ANALYSIS (cont.):

Line 200 - \$15.0 is allotted in travel for death scene investigations, and for recruiting and training local and regional Medical Examiners and lay investigators.

Line 300 - \$18.0 will be need in the contractual for the lease of three vehicles for use on the road system @ \$6.0/year/vehicle.

Line 400 - \$4.8 in general office supplies.

Line 500 - \$30.0 will be needed for 5 computers, software and a LAN system, and office furniture.

Position Title Investigator I		No. of Positions 3	Range/Step 14A	Bargaining Unit GGU	Bill No. CSHD 520
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 36.0	Location Juneau/Anchorage/Fairbanks		Election District	
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		Justification The investigator positions will conduct death scene investigations in place of the coroner. This position will secure the death scene, evaluate whether an autopsy should take place. These positions will be located in Anchorage.	
Salary		95.6			
Benefits		39.7			
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services		136.3			
Travel		15.0			
Contractual		18.0			
Commodities		3.0			
Equipment		15.0			
Other					
Total Cost		186.3			
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST					
1002	Federal Receipts				
1003	GP Match				
1004	General Fund	186.3			
1005	GP/Program Receipts				
1007	I/A Receipts				
1037	GP/MIH				
1061	CIP Receipts				
Other	()				

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services
 BRU: State Health Services
 COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 3 of 5
 Revised Date: _____

Position Title Investigator II		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 16A	Bargaining Unit GGU	Bill No. CSIB 520
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12.0	Location Anchorage		Election District	
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT			
Salary		33.3			
Benefits		16.7			
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services		60.0			
Travel					
Contractual		27.2			
Commodities		1.0			
Equipment		15.0			
Other					
Total Cost		93.2			
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST					
1002 Federal Receipts					
1003 GP Match					
1004 General Fund		93.2			
1005 GP/Program Receipts					
1007 I/A Receipts					
1037 GP/MI					
1061 CIP Receipts					
Other ()					
Justification This position will serve as the lead death scene investigator. It will also be responsible for the training of lay investigators in the local communities.					

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services

BRU: State Health Services

COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 4 of 6

Revised Date:

Position Title Administrative Clerk II		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 8A	Bargaining Unit GGU	Bill No. CSITB 520
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12.0	Location Anchorage		Election District	
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT			
Salary		23.0			
Benefits		11.5			
Premium Pay					
Other					
Total Personal Services		34.5			
Travel					
Contractual					
Commodities		1.0			
Equipment		5.0			
Other					
Total Cost		40.5			
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST					
1002	Federal Receipts				
1003	GF Match				
1004	General Fund	40.5			
1005	GF/Program Receipts				
1007	I/A Receipts				
1037	GF/MH				
1061	CIP Receipts				
Other ()					
Justification					
This position will give clerical support to the four professional positions. It will arrange travel, type forms, do transcription of the death scene investigation reports, perform filing and general clerical functions.					

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services

BRU: State Health Services

COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 5 of 5

Revised Date:

ANALYSIS (cont.):

Line 200 - \$15.0 is allotted in travel for death scene investigations, and for recruiting and training local and regional Medical Examiners and lay investigators.

Line 300 - \$45.2 will be need in the contractual for the lease of three venicles for use on the road system @ \$6.0/year/vehicle. \$27.2 will be used to contract with attorneys for the disposition of the deceased's estate and contracting with regional Medical Examiners and lay investigators.

Line 400 - \$5.0 in general office supplies.

Line 500 - \$35.0 will be needed for 5 computers, software and a LAN system, and office furniture.

Position Title Investigator I		No. of Positions 3	Range/Step 14A	Bargaining Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 36.0	Location Juneau/Anchorage/Fairbanks		Election District
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		
Salary		95.6		
Benefits		39.7		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services		136.3		
Travel		15.0		
Contractual		18.0		
Commodities		3.0		
Equipment		15.0		
Other				
Total Cost		186.3		
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST				
1002	Federal Receipts			
1003	GP Match			
1004	General Fund	186.3		
1005	GP/Program Receipts			
1007	I/A Receipts			
1037	GP/MI			
1061	CIP Receipts			
Other	()			
<p>Justification</p> <p>The Investigator positions will conduct death scene investigations in place of the coroner. This position will secure the death scene, evaluate whether an autopsy should take place. An investigator will be located in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.</p>				

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services

BRU: State Health Services

COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 3 of 6

Revised Date:

Position Title Investigator II		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 16A	Bargaining Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12.0	Location Anchorage		Election District
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		
Salary		33.3		
Benefits		16.7		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services		50.0		
Travel				
Contractual		27.2		
Commodities		1.0		
Equipment		15.0		
Other				
Total Cost		93.2		
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST				
1002	Federal Receipts			
1003	GP Match			
1004	General Fund	93.2		
1005	GP/Program Receipts			
1007	I/A Receipts			
1037	GP/MII			
1061	CIP Receipts			
Other ()				
Justification This position will serve as the lead death scene investigator. It will also be responsible for the training of lay investigators in the local communities.				

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services
 BRU: State Health Services
 COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 4 of 6
 Revised Date: _____

Position Title Administrative Clerk II		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 8A	Bargaining Unit GGU
Time Status PFT	Staff Months 12.0	Location Anchorage		Election District
TYPE of EXPENDITURE		AMOUNT		
Salary		23.0		
Benefits		11.5		
Premium Pay				
Other				
Total Personal Services		34.5		
Travel				
Contractual				
Commodities		1.0		
Equipment		5.0		
Other				
Total Cost		40.5		
FUNDING SOURCE for TOTAL COST				
1002	Federal Receipts			
1003	GF Match			
1004	General Fund	40.5		
1005	GF/Program Receipts			
1007	I/A Receipts			
1037	GF/MI			
1061	CIP Receipts			
Other ()				
Justification This position will give clerical support to the four professional positions. It will arrange travel, type forms, do transcription of the death scene investigation reports, perform filing and general clerical functions.				

**REQUEST for
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY: Health and Social Services

BRU: State Health Services

COMPONENT: State Medical Examiner

FY97

Page: 5 of 5

Revised Date:

FISCAL NOTE

No. 2
 Bill Number: HB 520
 (H) Publish Date: 3/6/96

STATE OF ALASKA
 1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Alaska Court System
 Title: Inquests, Coroners, Post Mortems, etc. BRU: Trial Courts
 Component: _____
 Sponsor: House Finance
 Requestor: House Judiciary COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 768

Expensitures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS & CLAIMS						
MISCELLANECUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						

Fund Source (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)	(320.0)

Estimate of any current year (FY 96) cost: None

Positions

Full-Time	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)	(5.0)
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation will transfer coroner and public administrator duties to Department of Health & Social Services.

Prepared by: C. S. Christensen III, Staff Counsel *CSC*
 Agency: Alaska Court System

Approved by: Arthur H. Snowden, II, Administrative Director *R7 CSC*
 Agency: Alaska Court System

Phone: 284-8228
 Date: 02/27/96
 Date: 02/27/96

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Attachment #3
3/13/96
95LS1678C.1 ✓
Lauerbach
3/13/96

adopted NO/OBJ

AMENDMENT #1

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 520(FIN), draft, version "C"

1 Page 4, line 2, following "to":

2 Insert "perform or"

3 Page 5, line 29:

4 Delete "is"

5 Insert "and individuals who perform or assist the state medical examiner in performing
6 the duties of the state medical examiner under this section are"

9-LS16781C
Lauterbach
3/12/96

*with
amendment #1*

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 520(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to death investigations and inquests, coroners, public
2 administrators, and medical examiners, including the state medical examiner;
3 relating to the jurisdiction of district court judges and magistrates in certain cases
4 involving death."

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

6 * Section 1. AS 09.55 is amended by adding new sections to read:

7 ARTICLE 2A. INQUESTS.

8 Sec. 09.55.062. DEATH INQUESTS. Upon petition by the state medical
9 examiner or a state prosecutor, a judicial officer shall conduct proceedings under
10 AS 09.55.062 - 09.55.069 to determine the cause and manner of a person's death. The
11 prosecutor shall present the evidence in the death inquest and assist the court in
12 instructing the jury and conducting the inquest only when the inquest is based on a
13 petition filed by the prosecutor or when the prosecutor requests to participate in the
14 proceedings.

1 Sec. 09.55.064. JURORS FOR INQUEST. (a) When a death inquest is to be
2 held under AS 09.55.062 - 09.55.069, the judicial officer shall promptly summon six
3 persons qualified by law to serve as jurors to appear before the court.

4 (b) When six jurors attend as required under (a) of this section, they shall be
5 sworn by the court to

6 (1) inquire into the identity of the deceased, and when, where, and by
7 what means the person died;

8 (2) inquire into the circumstances attending the death; and

9 (3) give a true verdict according to the evidence.

10 Sec. 09.55.066. SUBPOENA AND EXAMINATION OF WITNESSES. The
11 judicial officer or a prosecuting attorney may, when necessary to determine the material
12 facts relating to the death, subpoena and examine witnesses for a proceeding under
13 AS 09.55.062 - 09.55.069.

14 Sec. 09.55.068. VERDICT OF INQUEST JURY. After hearing the testimony,
15 the jury or two thirds of its number shall give its written verdict, signed and setting out

16 (1) the name of the deceased and when, where, and by what means the
17 deceased died; and

18 (2) whether the deceased was killed or the death was occasioned by the
19 act of another by criminal means.

20 Sec. 09.55.069. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES ALLOWED. The
21 members of the jury and witnesses in an inquest under AS 09.55.062 - 09.55.069 are
22 entitled to the same compensation as in civil actions in a district court, and the
23 compensation and other incidental expenses shall be audited and allowed as in the case
24 of other similar expenses. When the judicial officer has submitted the petition to a jury
25 in compliance with AS 09.55.062 and there is no interested party or an estate from which
26 the costs of the proceedings can be audited and allowed, then the costs shall be paid
27 from the "relief fund" created by the laws dealing with lost persons, upon vouchers made
28 out, signed, and sworn to by the judicial officer.

29 * Sec. 2. AS 12.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

30 Sec. 12.65.005. DUTY TO NOTIFY STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER. (a)
31 Unless the person has reasonable grounds to believe that notice has already been given,
32 a person who attends a death or has knowledge of a death, in addition to notifying a

1 peace officer, shall immediately notify the state medical examiner when the death
2 appears to have

3 (1) been caused by unknown or criminal means, during the commission
4 of a crime, or by suicide, accident, or poisoning;

5 (2) occurred under suspicious or unusual circumstances or occurred
6 suddenly when the decedent was in apparent good health;

7 (3) been unattended by a practicing physician or occurred less than 24
8 hours after the deceased was admitted to a medical facility;

9 (4) been associated with a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure;

10 (5) resulted from a disease that constitutes a threat to public health;

11 (6) been caused by a disease, injury, or toxic agent resulting from
12 employment;

13 (7) occurred in a jail or corrections facility owned or operated by the
14 state or a political subdivision of the state or in a facility for the placement of persons
15 in the custody or under the supervision of the state;

16 (8) occurred in a foster home;

17 (9) occurred in a mental institution or mental health treatment facility; or

18 (10) occurred while the deceased was in the custody of, or was being
19 taken into the custody of, the state or a political subdivision of the state or a public
20 officer or agent of the state or a political subdivision of the state.

21 (b) A person who attends a death or has knowledge of a death occurring in
22 circumstances other than those enumerated in (a) of this section may notify the state
23 medical examiners of the death if, in the person's opinion, a death investigation under
24 AS 12.65.020 - 12.65.025 may be appropriate.

25 (c) The body of a person whose death has been or should be reported to the state
26 medical examiner under this section may not be moved or otherwise disturbed without
27 the permission of the state medical examiner.

28 * Sec. 3. AS 12.65.015(a) is amended to read:

29 (a) The [IN ADDITION TO APPOINTING MEDICAL EXAMINERS UNDER
30 AS 12.65.010, THE] commissioner of health and social services shall appoint a
31 [ESTABLISH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES THE
32 POSITION OF] state medical examiner to perform the duties set out in AS 12.65.015 -

1 12.65.025. The commissioner may also appoint a deputy medical examiner and
2 assistant medical examiners to assist the state medical examiner in performing these
3 duties. To be eligible for the position of medical examiner, deputy medical
4 examiner, or assistant medical examiner, a person must be a physician licensed to
5 practice in this state or, if the physician is licensed in another jurisdiction, the
6 physician must be employed by the state or by an agency of the United States
7 government within the state. The state medical examiner, deputy medical examiner,
8 and assistant medical examiners are [IS] in the exempt service under AS 39.25.110.

9 * Sec. 4. AS 12.65.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (d) The state medical examiner may, through contracts for services, appoint
11 local, regional, and district medical examiners throughout the state to perform or assist
12 in performing the duties assigned to the state medical examiner. To be eligible for
13 appointment as a local, regional, or district medical examiner, a person must be a
14 physician licensed to practice in this state or, if the physician is licensed in another
15 jurisdiction, the physician must be employed by the state or by an agency of the United
16 States government within the state. An appointment under this subsection may be for
17 a term of up to two years.

18 * Sec. 5. AS 12.65.020 is repealed and reenacted to read:

19 Sec. 12.65.020. MEDICAL DEATH INVESTIGATIONS. (a) When a death
20 is reported to the state medical examiner under AS 12.65.005, or when a person dies
21 under circumstances that, in the opinion of the state medical examiner, warrant an
22 investigation, the state medical examiner may perform a medical death investigation. In
23 performing the investigation, the state medical examiner may

24 (1) order that the body of the person who has died not be moved or
25 otherwise disturbed without the permission of the medical examiner;

26 (2) request a peace officer to secure the scene and perform an on-scene
27 investigation;

28 (3) view the remains of the deceased person;

29 (4) order the remains of the deceased to be transported to another
30 location;

31 (5) perform a post mortem examination;

32 (6) perform an autopsy;

- 1 (7) take possession of property considered necessary for the investigation;
2 (8) subpoena and examine a person or record necessary in the opinion
3 of the medical examiner to determine the material facts relating to the death; and
4 (9) take other actions appropriate under the circumstances to determine
5 the cause and manner of death.

6 (b) When the state medical examiner has completed an investigation or made the
7 inquiry considered appropriate by the examiner, the examiner shall prepare a report of
8 the examiner's findings and conclusions. If the findings and conclusions indicate that
9 the death may have been caused by criminal means, the state medical examiner shall
10 submit a copy of the report to the district attorney responsible for prosecutions in the
11 location where the death occurred. The state medical examiner's investigative report is
12 a privileged and confidential document, not subject to public disclosure under AS 09.25.
13 It may be disclosed to public officers and employees for a public purpose and, when
14 doing so will not interfere with an ongoing investigation or prosecution, to a person who
15 is related to the deceased or who has a financial or personal interest in the estate of the
16 deceased person.

17 (c) The state medical examiner or a prosecuting attorney may petition the court
18 to hold a death inquest under AS 09.55.062 if the findings and conclusions of the state
19 medical examiner, in the opinion of the state medical examiner or prosecuting attorney,
20 warrant the inquest. Otherwise, the state medical examiner shall cause a certificate of
21 death for the deceased person to be completed and filed as prescribed by law.

22 (d) The state medical examiner may direct the state registrar of vital statistics to
23 amend a death certificate when, in the opinion of the state medical examiner, the death
24 certificate is incomplete or inaccurate.

25 (e) The state medical examiner may enter into agreements for services to be
26 performed by persons in the course of medical investigations and may call upon public
27 employees, including a peace officer or a village public safety officer, to perform or
28 assist in performing the duties specified in this section.

29 (f) The state medical examiner is immune from civil liability based on
30 determining the cause and manner of a person's death.

31 (g) The Department of Health and Social Services shall adopt regulations to
32 implement this section.

1 * Sec. 6. AS 12.65.025(a) is amended to read:

2 (a) The state medical examiner [COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND
3 SOCIAL SERVICES] shall designate the facilities at which post mortem examinations
4 and autopsies ordered under this chapter may be performed. The Department of Health
5 and Social Services shall pay the costs of

6 (1) post mortem examinations and autopsies ordered under this chapter;

7 (2) related transportation to the location where the post mortem
8 examination is conducted and then to the community closest to where the death
9 occurred, except that transportation costs to another requested location may be paid
10 to the extent that the costs do not exceed the costs of returning the body to the
11 community closest to where the death occurred;

12 (3) embalming required by law; and

13 (4) cosmetology necessary to make the head, face, neck, and hands of
14 the deceased presentable if those parts of the body are disfigured by the post mortem
15 examination [AUTOPSY].

16 * Sec. 7. AS 12.65.100 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 12.65.100. UNCLAIMED BODIES. When a person dies and no person
18 appears to claim the body for burial, and no provision is made for the body under
19 AS 13.50, the [CORONER SHALL NOTIFY THE] Department of Health and Social
20 Services, upon notification, [WHICH] shall request a court order authorizing
21 [CAUSE] the body to be plainly and decently buried or cremated and the remains
22 decently interred. A judicial officer shall issue the requested order upon the sworn
23 testimony or statement of a representative of the Department of Health and Social
24 Services that a person has not appeared to claim the body for burial and provision
25 is not made for the body under AS 13.50.

26 * Sec. 8. AS 12.65 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 Sec. 12.65.105. RELEASE OF PROPERTY TO TEMPORARY CUSTODIAN.
28 A person having possession of tangible personal property of a decedent may release the
29 property to a temporary custodian willing to take custody of and preserve the property
30 pending the appointment of a personal representative or other transfer under AS 13.16.
31 Upon execution of an affidavit that meets the requirements of court rules adopted to
32 implement this section, the person delivering possession of the property is discharged

1 from further obligation as though the person had dealt with the personal representative
2 of the estate, and the temporary custodian is answerable and accountable for the property
3 to any personal representative of the estate or to another person having a superior right.

4 * Sec. 9. AS 12.65.110 is amended to read:

5 Sec. 12.65.110. INVENTORY AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY. If a body
6 is unclaimed as described in AS 12.65.100 and money or other property belonging to the
7 deceased is found, the public administrator [CORONER] shall inventory it [FOR THE
8 CORONER'S RECORDS] and take it into possession [. THE CORONER SHALL,
9 WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER INTERMENT, TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE
10 INVENTORY AND THE MONEY OR PROPERTY TO THE PUBLIC
11 ADMINISTRATOR OF THAT JUDICIAL DISTRICT] for disposition under AS 13.16
12 [AS 22.15.320].

13 * Sec. 10. AS 18.50.230(d) is amended to read:

14 (d) When a death occurs without medical attendance, or when official inquiry
15 is required, the department shall provide by regulation, in accordance with law, the
16 responsibility for completing and signing the medical certification. This subsection is
17 intended to include, among others, cases involving a medical examiner [OR A
18 CORONER.] and cases involving presumption of death.

19 * Sec. 11. AS 22.15.030(a) is amended to read:

20 (a) The district court has jurisdiction of civil cases, including foreign judgments
21 filed under AS 09.30.200 and arbitration proceedings under AS 09.43.170, as follows:

22 (1) for the recovery of money or damages when the amount claimed
23 exclusive of costs, interest, and attorney fees does not exceed \$50,000;

24 (2) for the recovery of specific personal property, when the value of the
25 property claimed and the damages for the detention do not exceed \$50,000;

26 (3) for the recovery of a penalty or forfeiture, whether given by statute
27 or arising out of contract, not exceeding \$50,000;

28 (4) to give judgment without action upon the confession of the defendant
29 for any of the cases specified in this section, except for a penalty or forfeiture imposed
30 by statute;

31 (5) for establishing the fact of death or cause and manner of death of
32 any person in the manner prescribed in AS 09.55.020 - 09.55.069 [AS 09.55.020 -

1 09.55.060];

2 (6) for the recovery of the possession of premises in the manner provided
3 under AS 09.45.070 - 09.45.160 when the value of the arrears and damage to the
4 property does not exceed \$50,000;

5 (7) for the foreclosure of a lien when the amount in controversy does not
6 exceed \$50,000;

7 (8) for the recovery of money or damages in motor vehicle tort cases
8 when the amount claimed exclusive of costs, interest, and attorney fees does not exceed
9 \$50,000;

10 (9) over civil actions for taking utility service and for damages to or
11 interference with a utility line filed under AS 42.20.030;

12 (10) over cases involving injunctive relief for domestic violence under
13 AS 25.35.010 and 25.35.020.

14 * Sec. 12. AS 22.15.100 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 22.15.100. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF DISTRICT JUDGE AND
16 MAGISTRATE. Each district judge and magistrate has the power

17 (1) to issue writs of habeas corpus for the purpose of inquiring into the
18 cause of restraint of liberty, returnable before a judge of the superior court, and the same
19 proceedings shall be had on the writ as if it had been granted by the superior court judge
20 under the laws of the state in such cases;

21 (2) of a notary public;

22 (3) to issue marriage licenses and to solemnize marriages;

23 (4) to issue warrants of arrest, summons, and search warrants according
24 to manner and procedure prescribed by law and the supreme court;

25 (5) to act as an examining judge or magistrate in preliminary
26 examinations in criminal proceedings; to set, receive, and forfeit bail and to order the
27 release of defendants under bail;

28 (6) to act as a referee in matters and actions referred to the judge or
29 magistrate by the superior court, with all powers conferred upon referees by laws;

30 (7) of the superior court in all respects including but not limited to
31 contempts, attendance of witnesses, and bench warrants;

32 (8) to order the temporary detention of a minor, or take other action

1 authorized by law or rules of procedure, in cases arising under AS 47.10, when the
 2 minor is in a condition or surrounding dangerous or injurious to the welfare of the minor
 3 or others that requires immediate action; the action may be continued in effect until
 4 reviewed by the superior court in accordance with rules of procedure governing these
 5 cases;

6 (9) to issue a temporary order for injunctive relief in cases involving
 7 domestic violence as provided in AS 25.35.010 and 25.35.020;

8 (10) to review an administrative revocation of a person's driver's license
 9 or nonresident privilege to drive, and an administrative refusal to issue an original
 10 license, when designated as a hearing officer by the commissioner of public safety and
 11 with the consent of the administrative director of the state court system;

12 (11) to establish the fact of death or inquire into the death of a
 13 person in the manner prescribed under AS 09.55.020 - 09.55.069.

14 * Sec. 13. AS 22.15.110(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) Each district judge and magistrate shall

16 (1) [PERFORM THE DUTIES AND EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY
 17 OF CORONER AS PRESCRIBED BY LAW;

18 (2)] record birth, death, and marriage certificates presented to them for
 19 record in the manner prescribed by law;

20 (2) authorize the burial or disposition of bodies under AS 12.65.100;

21 and

22 (3) upon application by an appropriate person, appoint the person
 23 to assume temporary custody [TAKE CUSTODY AND CONTROL] of and preserve
 24 the property and estate of deceased persons until disposition of the property is made
 25 under AS 13.16 or further order is made by the court [A LEGAL CUSTODIAN IS
 26 APPOINTED;

27 (4) REPEALED].

28 * Sec. 14. AS 22.15.310 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 22.15.310. APPOINTMENT. When authorized by the supreme court, the
 30 presiding judge in each judicial district shall appoint a person to act as public
 31 administrator of the estates of deceased persons [AND AS CORONER].

32 * Sec. 15. AS 22.15.320 is amended to read:

1 Sec. 22.15.320. ADMINISTRATION OF DECEDENTS' ESTATES. When
2 letters of administration are issued to a public administrator by the superior court in the
3 district, the public administrator is the legal custodian of and shall administer the estates
4 of deceased persons who leave property within the district. Letters of administration
5 shall be issued to the public administrator when (1) administration of a decedent's estate
6 is required by law, and (2) a period of 30 days has elapsed from the date of death with
7 no letters testamentary or letters of administration having been applied for and issued to
8 any other person entitled by law to administer the estate of the deceased person. Except
9 as otherwise provided in AS 22.15.310 - 22.15.340 [AS 22.15.310 - 22.15.350], a public
10 administrator shall administer estates as other administrators, and has all the rights and
11 authority, and is subject to all the duties and liabilities of other administrators.

12 * Sec. 16. AS 36.30.850(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) This chapter applies to every expenditure of state money by the state, acting
14 through an agency, under a contract, except that this chapter does not apply to

15 (1) grants;

16 (2) contracts for professional witnesses to provide for professional
17 services or testimony relating to existing or probable lawsuits in which the state is or
18 may become a party;

19 (3) contracts of the University of Alaska where the work is to be
20 performed substantially by students enrolled in the university;

21 (4) contracts for medical doctors and dentists;

22 (5) acquisitions or disposals of real property or interest in real property,
23 except as provided in AS 36.30.080 and 36.30.085;

24 (6) disposals under AS 38.05;

25 (7) contracts for the preparation of ballots under AS 15.15.030;

26 (8) acquisitions or disposals of property and other contracts relating to
27 airports under AS 02.15.070, 02.15.090, 02.15.091, and AS 44.88;

28 (9) disposals of obsolete property under AS 19.05.060;

29 (10) disposals of obsolete material or equipment under AS 35.20.060;

30 (11) agreements with providers of services under AS ~~44.47.250~~;
31 AS 47.07; AS 47.08; AS 47.10; AS 47.17; AS 47.24; AS 47.25.195, and 47.25.310;

32 (12) contracts of the Department of Fish and Game for flights that

1 involve specialized flying and piloting skills and are not point-to-point;

2 (13) purchases of income-producing assets for the state treasury or a
3 public corporation of the state;

4 (14) operation of the state boarding school established under AS 14.16
5 [,] if the State Board of Education or the commissioner of education adopts regulations
6 for use by the state boarding school in procurement and contracting;

7 (15) a contract that is a delegation, in whole or in part, of investment
8 powers held by the commissioner of revenue under AS 14.40.400, AS 14.42.200,
9 14.42.210, AS 18.56.095, AS 37.10.070, 37.10.071, or AS 37.14:

10 (16) a contract that is a delegation, in whole or in part, of investment
11 powers or fiduciary duties of

12 (A) the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Permanent Fund
13 Corporation under AS 37.13:

14 (B) the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority under
15 AS 37.14.001 - 37.14.099:

16 (17) the purchase of books, book binding services, newspapers,
17 periodicals, audio-visual materials, network information services access, approval plans,
18 professional memberships, archival materials, objects of art, and items for museum or
19 archival acquisition having cultural, historical, or archaeological significance; in this
20 paragraph,

21 (A) "approval plans" means book selection services in which
22 current book titles meeting an agency's customized specifications are provided
23 to the agency subject to the right of the agency to return those books that do not
24 meet with the agency's approval;

25 (B) "archival materials" means the noncurrent records of an
26 agency that are preserved after appraisal because of their value;

27 (C) "audio-visual materials" means nonbook prerecorded
28 materials, including records, tapes, slides, transparencies, films, filmstrips,
29 cassettes, videos, compact discs, laser discs, and items that require the use of
30 equipment to render them usable;

31 (D) "network information services" means a group of resources
32 from which cataloging information, holdings records, inter-library loans,

- 1 acquisitions information, and other reference resources can be obtained;
- 2 (18) contracts for the purchase of standardized examinations for licensure
- 3 under AS 08;
- 4 (19) contracts for home health care provided under regulations adopted
- 5 by the Department of Health and Social Services and for adult residential care services
- 6 provided under regulations adopted by the Department of Health and Social Services or
- 7 by the Department of Administration;
- 8 (20) contracts for supplies or services for research projects funded by
- 9 money received from the federal government or private grants;
- 10 (21) guest speakers or performers for an educational or cultural activity;
- 11 (22) contracts of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
- 12 for a clean coal technology demonstration project that
- 13 (A) is attempting to develop a coal-fired electric generation
- 14 project;
- 15 (B) uses technology that is capable of commercialization during
- 16 the 1990's; and
- 17 (C) qualifies for federal financial participation under P.L. 99 -190,
- 18 as amended;
- 19 (23) disposals of supplies acquired through foreclosure of loans issued
- 20 under AS 03.10;
- 21 (24) purchases of curatorial and conservation services to maintain,
- 22 preserve, and interpret
- 23 (A) objects of art; and
- 24 (B) items having cultural, historical, or archaeological significance
- 25 to the state;
- 26 (25) acquisition of confidential seismic survey data necessary for pre-sale
- 27 oil and gas lease analyses under AS 38.05.180;
- 28 (26) contracts for village public safety officers;
- 29 (27) purchases of supplies and services to support the operations of the
- 30 Alaska state troopers or the division of fish and wildlife protection if the procurement
- 31 officer for the Department of Public Safety makes a written determination that publicity
- 32 of the purchases would jeopardize the safety of personnel or the success of a covert

1 operation;

2 (28) expenditures when rates are set by law or ordinance;

3 (29) construction of new vessels by the Department of Transportation and
4 Public Facilities for the Alaska marine highway system;

5 (30) contracts entered into with a regional development organization; in
6 this paragraph, "regional development organization" has the meaning given in
7 AS 44.33.026;

8 (31) contracts that are to be performed in an area outside of the country
9 and that require a knowledge of the customs, procedures, rules, or laws of the area; or

10 (32) contracts that are between the Department of Law and attorneys who
11 are not employed by the state and that are for the review or prosecution of possible
12 violations of the criminal law of the state in situations where the attorney general
13 concludes that an actual or potential conflict of interest makes it inappropriate for the
14 Department of Law to review or prosecute the possible violations;

15 (33) contracts between the Department of Natural Resources and
16 contractors qualified to evaluate hydrocarbon development, production, transportation,
17 and economics, to assist the commissioner of natural resources in evaluating applications
18 for oil and gas royalty increases or decreases or other oil and gas royalty adjustments,
19 and evaluating the related financial and technical data entered into under
20 AS 38.05.180(j);

21 (34) contracts between the state medical examiner and a provider of
22 medical services to perform or assist in performing the duties assigned to the state
23 medical examiner in AS 12.65.020.

24 * Sec. 17. AS 39.25.110(13) is amended to read:

25 (13) the state medical examiner, deputy medical examiner, and
26 assistant medical examiners appointed under AS 12.65.015 and physicians licensed to
27 practice in this state and employed by the division of mental health and developmental
28 disabilities in the Department of Health and Social Services or by the Department of
29 Corrections;

30 * Sec. 18. AS 12.65.010, 12.65.030, 12.65.040, 12.65.050, 12.65.060, 12.65.070, 12.65.080,
31 12.65.090; AS 22.15.120(a)(10), and 22.15.350 are repealed.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 12, 1996

SUBJECT: Coroners, Public Administrators, etc. (CSHB 520(FIN); draft 9-LS1678\C)

TO: Representative Richard Foster
Attn: John Walsh

FROM: Terri Lutterbach
Legislative Counsel *Therri Lutterbach*

Enclosed is the draft CS you requested for this bill. It is based on the material you submitted, but I have the following comments and questions:

(1) I have added sec. 15, which is not a section you asked for. It is necessary because the material you submitted removed a number of section citations from the repealer, but retained AS 22.15.350 in the repealer. Therefore, the reference to AS 22.15.350 that occurs in AS 22.15.320 needs to be amended. That's what sec. 15 does. However, I wonder if maybe AS 22.15.350 should be removed from the repealer instead. Maybe it should just be amended to remove the references to sections in AS 12.65, but to retain the reference to AS 22.15.110. Please review this matter and let me know if you would prefer to amend AS 22.15.350 rather than repeal it.

(2) The submitted material added several types of medical examiners: deputy, assistant, local, regional, and district medical examiners. In light of these additions, I recommend that you review sec. 5 of the bill carefully as to which duties are delegable and as to whether the immunity granted to the state medical examiner under AS 12.65.020(f) should be expanded to include the other medical examiners.

I would also note for your consideration that sec. 3 provides that the deputy and assistant medical examiners may "assist" the state medical examiner. However, sec. 4 provides that the local, regional, and district medical examiners may "perform or assist in performing the duties assigned to the state medical examiner." Is the difference intentional? One type may only assist, while the other type may perform or assist in performing? This difference in language is part of what makes me wonder which duties are delegable and whether the immunity needs to be expanded.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance on this matter.

TML:glc
96-159.glc
Enclosure

Sectional Analysis for draft CS for HB 520(FIN) version 9-LS1678\C

This bill establishes a unified state medical examiner system in Alaska and abolishes the position of coroners. Alaska is one of only 18 states that still utilizes both medical examiners (in the executive branch) and coroners (in the judiciary) for death investigations. A hybrid system such as this can result in a duplication of efforts and expense and, in Alaska, has generated some confusion as to the responsibilities and authority of each.

Section 1 of the bill is essentially a housekeeping measure, renaming "coroners' inquests" as "death inquests" and moving the authorizing statutes from AS 12.65 to AS 09.55, where the presumptive death statutes are already located. A death inquest can be initiated at the request of the medical examiner or a district attorney.

Section 2 sets out the circumstances in which the state medical investigator must be notified of a death. These are essentially unanticipated deaths caused by other than natural means. If the state medical examiner concludes that it is appropriate to do so, the examiner will perform a medical death investigation under AS 12.65.020.

The Committee Substitute contains an amendment that requires the state medical examiner to be notified when a person dies while in the custody of a municipality or a municipal employee, as well as when the person dies in the custody of the state or an agent of the state. There is no reason to limit the duty of notification to instances when a death occurs in state custody and not require notification when a death occurs while a person is in the custody of a municipality.

Section 3 amends the state medical examiner statute to authorize the commissioner of Health & Social Services to appoint local, regional, or district medical examiners to assist in performing the duties of the medical examiner. The deputy and assistant state medical examiners are in the exempt service. This is also set out in section 17 of the bill.

Section 4 gives the state medical examiner authority to contract with physicians around the state for assistance in performing the duties of his office.

Section 5, amending AS 12.65.020, represents the core of this bill. It transfers jurisdiction over the bodies of those who die unattended by a physician from coroners to the state medical examiner. The state medical examiner is authorized to view the remains of the deceased person, perform a post mortem examination, and take any other action necessary to make a proper determination of the cause of death, including taking possession of any property deemed necessary to the investigation. The state medical examiner is authorized to call upon public employees, including peace officers and village public safety officers, to provide assistance necessary to complete the medical death investigation. If the examiner concludes that death may have been caused by criminal means, a copy of the report of the medical examiner's findings and conclusions is to be submitted to the district attorney, who is authorized to initiate criminal proceedings.

An amendment to the bill extends the medical examiner's immunity to those who assist him in performing the duties of office.

Section 6 clarifies that the state will pay the costs of transporting a body to the location where a post mortem examination is to be conducted, and then the costs of returning the body to the community where the death occurred or to such other location as relatives may request to the extent that the costs of such transportation do not exceed the costs of returning the body to the place of death.

Section 7 authorizes the Department of Health and Social Services to provide burial or cremation services for unclaimed bodies.

Sections 8 and 13 relate to the tangible property of a decedent. This bill originally transferred the functions of public administrators from the judiciary to the Department of Health & Social Services. It has been determined, however, that the transfer of these functions presents complications that will require additional time to resolve. Accordingly, under this Committee Substitute, the judiciary will continue to provide the functions of the public administrator.

Section 8 codifies the existing practices of persons who act as temporary custodians of property before a personal representative is appointed. At the same time, it clarifies the legal obligations of the respective parties to minimize issues of liability in these situations. The court system anticipates adopting and making available forms for temporary property custodians to use.

Section 9 changes a reference from the coroner to the public administrator.

Section 13 addresses liability concerns raised by law enforcement officials regarding their release of property following a person's death. This section authorizes district court judges and magistrates to appoint a person to take temporary custody of some or all of a deceased person's property. A person who is seeking the release of property from a law enforcement agency can be required by the agency to obtain this court order/appointment; law enforcement agencies will then be immune for actions taken in response to the court order. The judiciary expects to adopt forms that will make this process easy and quick to use.

Section 16 of the bill exempts from the procurement code contracts entered into by the medical examiner with health care providers to assist in medical examiner functions -- such as a contract with a physician or a hospital in an area outside of Anchorage to determine the cause of death in certain cases public administrator with law firms to handle the probate proceedings. This replaces a provision in the original bill that related to public administrators' contracts for legal services, which is no longer needed in view of the judiciary retaining the public administrator functions.

The remaining sections of the bill -- 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 18 -- amend statutes in the criminal and judicial codes to delete references to coroners that are no longer necessary.

3/6/96

(7) HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT
Date Referred to Committee: February 16, 1996

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Finance

Date of Committee Action: 3/4/96

The JUDICIARY Committee considered:

HB 520

HOUSE BILL NO. 520

INQUESTS, CORONERS, POST MORTEMES, ETC.

"An Act relating to death investigations and inquests, coroners, public administrators, and medical examiners, including the state medical examiner; relating to the jurisdiction of district court judges and magistrates in certain cases involving death."

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ [] the same title [] a new title

[] additional referral to _____ Committee
[] attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)
(2) [X] fiscal note(s) MISS, courts [] fiscal note(s) _____

[X] zero fiscal note(s) P.S. [] zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Brian Porter</i>	Porter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>Con Bunde</i>	Bunde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>John Tooley</i>	Tooley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>John Vezen</i>	Vezen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<i>John Finkelstein</i>	Finkelstein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
		(5)			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Brian Porter*