

HB

225

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
Bill Version: HB225-DHSS-DPH--03-30-05

() Publish Date: _____
Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
Title: RELATING TO MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND DEATH EXAMINATIONS

RDU: Public Health
Component: State Medical Examiner

Sponsor: MCGUIRE
Requester: HOUSE (HES)

Component No.: 293

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2005) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2006 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill would amend current law to give the Deputy Medical Examiner the same authorities and duties as the State Medical Examiner. It also would add a mandate that the Commissioner "shall" appoint a Deputy Medical Examiner (current law allows that the Commissioner "may" appoint a Deputy M.E.), and clarifies that the Commissioner may appoint Assistant Medical Examiners.

The Governor's proposed FY06 operating budget for the State Medical Examiner's Office will support this proposed bill, as the budget includes funding for both the State Medical Examiner and the Deputy Medical Examiner positions. There currently are no Assistant Medical Examiners established and funded in the budget, but since this bill does not require the Commissioner to appoint Assistant Medical Examiners, no additional funding is required for this legislation.

Prepared by: Richard Mandsager, M.D. Phone 465-3090
Division: Public Health Date/Time 03/29/2005
Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner Date 03/30/2005
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE MCGUIRE
HOUSE DISTRICT 28

Chair
Judiciary Committee

Member
House Leadership
Rules Committee
Health, Education
& Social Services
Committee
Oil & Gas Committee
Military & Veterans'
Affairs Committee

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Wilson

From: Representative Leslie McGuire

Date: March 23, 2005

Re: Request for hearing - HB 225, "*An Act relating to medical examiners and medical death examinations.*"

I respectfully request that HB 225, "*An Act relating to medical examiners and medical death examinations*" be scheduled for a hearing at your earliest convenience. Attached you will find the bill packet containing the most current version of the bill, sponsor statement and background information.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me personally, or my staff, Shalon Szymanski at (907) 465-6841. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE MCGUIRE HOUSE DISTRICT 28

SPONSOR STATEMENT HB 225

"An Act relating to medical examiners and medical death examinations."

Last year alone, there were nearly 1,100 cases filed with the State of Alaska's medical examiner's office. All of these cases require responsibilities ranging from autopsies, administrative duties and legal responsibilities, such as testifying in court. With this sizeable caseload for our state, how many medical examiners do we have to handle it? The answer is, one.

Our one state medical examiner has been stretched so thin with this caseload that he has been forced to decide which cases will actually receive autopsies. Currently autopsies are required only when the death was suspicious or if there was a crime involved. When forced to pick and choose from the remaining cases, something could be overlooked in these remaining cases that did not receive the attention they should have. We also have to consider what would happen if our one medical examiner became ill or for any reason could not fulfill his duties.

The position of the state medical examiner is a critical function in the state and a tremendous responsibility. It is a responsibility not only to the families and friends of the victim, but also to the community as a whole. The fact that there is such a large caseload for only one medical examiner has become a growing concern for policy makers, police officers and the community.

Under current state law, the commissioner of health and social services is required to appoint only a medical examiner. HB 225 would require the commissioner of health and social services to appoint both a chief medical examiner and a deputy medical examiner to share the extensive workload.