

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 53rd Legislature

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| Bill No.: | SB250 |
| Version: | CS |
| Request Number: | 7586 |
| Author: | Representative Armes Senator Marlatt |
| Date: | 4/25/2011 |
| Impact: | FY-12 - None Anticipated |

Research Analysis

The measure makes numerous changes to the operations of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The measure creates the Chanda Turner Reform Act. The measure modifies the make-up of the seven-member Board of Medicolegal Investigations adding a criminal defense attorney, a family member of a victim of violent crime and a prosecutor to the Board. Provides term of membership to be 4 years and allows for reappointment. Requires the Board to meet at least quarterly. Allows the Chief Medical Examiner to hire a Chief Administrative Officer. Provides qualifications of the Chief Administrative Officer. Provides that the Chief Administrative Officer is directly responsible to the Board of Medicolegal Investigations for the management and administration of the Office of the State Medical Examiner. Provides responsibilities of the Chief Administrative Officer. Requires that certain deaths be investigated by a licensed physician or approved investigator with at least 640 hours of education approved by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Requires investigations to be independent from any and all law enforcement agencies. Provides that copies of reports are to be furnished to the spouse of the deceased or any person within one degree of consanguinity of the deceased upon request and within five business days of the request once the cause and manner of death have been determined and the death certificate has been issued. Allows spouse or family member to appeal findings in the report. The chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Medical Examiner's designee, a medical examiner or a district attorney shall require and authorize an autopsy to be conducted for violent deaths, deaths under suspicious, unusual or unnatural circumstances and deaths of any inmate occurring in any place of incarceration.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (CME) has been requested to provide an estimate of the fiscal impact, if any, of SB250. To date, no estimate has been provided.

The requirements of SB250 could potentially increase the workload of the CME, depending upon the number of requests for reports and the number of appeals of the findings. If the CME's workload increases significantly, it will require additional FTE. It is anticipated that the number of requests and appeals will gradually increase over time, but for FY-12 the CME should be able to accommodate the additional workload at current staffing levels.

Prepared By: Marilyn Anderson

Other Considerations

None