

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 54th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB1183
Version:	
Request Number:	
Author:	Representative Billy Senator Standridge
Date:	4/7/2014
Impact:	Increase in Fee Revenue: Board of Medicolegal Investigations

Research Analysis

The measure stipulates that the Chief Medical Examiner's Board of Directors will hold elections annually and board members cannot serve more than 2 years. It requires the appointment of a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner. It removes *deaths of persons after unexplained coma*, and adds bodies donated to educational entities, to the list of required investigations. It removes the restriction regarding autopsies on executed inmates and no longer requires the Chief Medical Examiner to distribute reporting forms to medical examiners. The measure gives medical examiners access to a deceased medical record during an official investigation to determine the cause and manner of death. It stipulates that the medical examiner must turn over the body of the deceased within 24 hours of receipt of the decedent, unless a longer period of time is necessary. It provides that the legal next of kin must receive a copy of the medical examiner's report and that only they can appeal the findings. It removes the prohibition on charging a fee for out of state shipment of human remains and eliminates compensation for medical examiners that are relieved by the Chief Medical Examiner from an investigation. The OCME may only store biological specimens for 5 years. Medical examiner permit certificates will be required in cases investigated solely for the purpose of using a permit for transporting a body out of state. The board will charge a fee for out-of-state shipments of human remains that do not require an investigation. An out-of-state transport permit and a cremation permit will be required for bodies containing body parts sent out of state or out of the county. The measure requires the Chief Medical Examiner to maintain a contract transport service and stipulates that the OCME cannot employ any member of law enforcement. If in the course of an investigation it is determined a death was caused by a drug overdose, the medical examiner will be required to report the decedent's name and date of birth to the OSBI. Subsequently, the OSBI must maintain a database containing the practitioners' information that prescribed or authorized the controlled dangerous substances discovered during the investigation of a death by drug overdose. Lastly, the measure removes several sections of law including the power of the Chief Medical Examiner, donation of the pituitary gland to the National Hormone and Pituitary Program, and fees associated with autopsies performed in places other than the laboratories of the medical examiner.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

Fiscal Analysis

SB1183 requires Medical Examiner permit certificates in cases investigated solely for the purposes of transporting a body out of state. The measure authorizes the Board of Medicolegal Investigations to charge a fee for out of state shipments of human remains when the Medical Examiner is not required to conduct an investigation of the death. The measure also requires

both a cremation permit and an out-of-state transport permit under certain circumstances. It is anticipated that the authorization and requirement of these permit fees will increase revenue to the Board of Medicolegal Investigations. The revenue increase would be dependent upon the number of additional permits issued.

Prepared By: Marilyn Anderson

Other Considerations

None.

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