

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7726**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1503

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 16, 2007

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Medical examiners and coroners.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Orentlicher

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** \_\_\_ **GENERAL**  
                          \_\_\_ **DEDICATED**  
                          \_\_\_ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Pending

**Summary of Legislation:** Creates the office of the state medical examiner (office) within the state department of health (state department). Requires the creation of regional medical examiner offices to conduct autopsies referred by each county coroner in the region. Sets forth the duties of a regional medical examiner. Requires the office to bill the county from which a subject of an autopsy resided for the costs of the autopsy. Requires a county coroner to certify a death after the regional medical examiner forwards an autopsy report to the county coroner. Requires the state department to compile and make available for public inspection autopsy records of a child who dies from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Requires the state department to adopt rules: (1) for hospitals and physicians to identify suspicious deaths of children; and (2) to certify a child death pathologist. Allows a local child fatality review team or the statewide child fatality review committee to subpoena documents regarding a death that the team is reviewing. Requires a certified child death pathologist (CCDP) within the regional office to: (1) consult with the coroner; (2) conduct certain autopsies; and (3) perform certain duties. Requires a coroner to notify a local or the statewide child fatality review team of: (1) each death of a person less than 18 years of age; and (2) a possible SIDS death. Requires a coroner to consult with a CCDP to determine if an autopsy is necessary if the person who died is less than 18 years of age. Provides procedures if a coroner and CCDP do not agree if an autopsy is necessary of a person less than 18 years of age. Makes it a Class B infraction if a person knowingly or intentionally fails to contact a coroner or law enforcement agency of the discovery of a body of a child less than 1 year old who has died. Makes conforming amendments. Repeals the chapter concerning the commission on forensic sciences. Repeals language regarding a coroner charging another county for the costs of an autopsy of a resident of the other county.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2007.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *As of the above date, the fiscal analysis of this bill has not been completed. Please contact the Office of Fiscal and Management Analysis for an update of this fiscal impact statement.*

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**

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