



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 601

January Session, 2017

Substitute Senate Bill No. 37

Senate, April 13, 2017

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist. and SEN. SOMERS of the 18th Dist., Chairpersons of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 19a-403 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner is established to be
5 operated under the control and supervision of the commission. The
6 expenses of the commission and of operating [said] the office shall be
7 paid by the state out of funds appropriated for the purpose. The office
8 shall be directed by a Chief Medical Examiner who shall be appointed
9 by the commission. [His] The office of the Chief Medical Examiner
10 shall be located at a medical school in this state. Not later than January
11 1, 2018, the office shall maintain full accreditation from the National
12 Association of Medical Examiners. The Chief Medical Examiner or any
13 member of the professional staff of the Office of the Chief Medical

14 Examiner who is summoned to give expert testimony in a civil action
 15 in his or her capacity as the Chief Medical Examiner or a member of
 16 the office shall be allowed and paid a witness fee of five hundred
 17 dollars for each day or portion thereof the Chief Medical Examiner or
 18 such staff member is required to attend court. Such fee shall be taxed
 19 as a part of the costs of the action and be paid by the party requesting
 20 the appearance, and any such fee received shall be deposited in the
 21 General Fund except no fee shall be imposed if the requesting party is
 22 the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	19a-403(a)

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 \$	FY 19 \$
Med. Examiner, Off.	GF - Cost	429,250	539,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	125,378	167,171
TOTAL	GF - Cost	554,628	706,171

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) maintain full accreditation from the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), which results in a state cost \$554,628 in FY 18 and \$706,171 in FY 19. This reflects partial-year funding (nine months) in FY 18 and annualized funding in FY 19 for two forensic pathologists (annual salaries of \$190,000 each) and one IT Analyst I (annual salary of \$59,000), as well as Other Expenses account funding (\$100,000 in both years). The Other Expenses account primarily supports expenses for laboratory services and testing, body transportation, and medical supplies. The State Comptroller fringe benefit cost for these positions is \$125,378 in FY 18 and \$167,171 in FY 19.

OCME has been downgraded to provisional status by NAME. The agency has until September 2017 to show sufficient progress in correcting deficiencies to be eligible for full re-accreditation. Currently,

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 38.08% of payroll in FY 18 and FY 19.

there are seven OCME forensic pathologists. The average pathologist caseload has risen from approximately 243 autopsies/pathologist in 2014 to approximately 337/pathologist in 2016. There is one filled Informational Technology (IT) Analyst II position. Positions are reflected to address deficiencies related to inadequate staffing.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and agency caseloads.

Sources: Deficiency Hearing Testimony, 4/10/2017

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB-37

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCREDITATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to maintain full accreditation from the National Association of Medical Examiners by January 1, 2018.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/27/2017)