
SENATE BILL 6591

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Brandland, Parlette and Franklin

Read first time 01/26/2004. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to forensic pathology; amending RCW 43.103.030 and
2 43.79.445; and repealing RCW 28B.20.426.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.103.030 and 1999 c 40 s 4 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 There is created the Washington state forensic investigations
7 council. The council shall oversee the bureau of forensic laboratory
8 services and, in consultation with the chief of the Washington state
9 patrol or the chief's designee, control the operation and establish
10 policies of the bureau of forensic laboratory services. The council
11 may also study and recommend cost-efficient improvements to the death
12 investigation system in Washington and report its findings to the
13 legislature.

14 Further, the council shall(~~(, jointly with the chairperson of the~~
15 ~~pathology department of the University of Washington's School of~~
16 ~~Medicine, or the chairperson's designee,)~~) oversee the state forensic
17 (~~(pathology fellowship)~~) pathologist program, determine the budget for
18 the program and set the (~~(fellow's)~~) state forensic pathologist's
19 annual salary, and take those steps necessary to administer the

1 program. The state forensic pathologist shall be available to the
2 county coroners and medical examiners of the state without charge to
3 perform autopsies, provide consultations, and testify in court.

4 The forensic investigations council shall be actively involved in
5 the preparation of the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget
6 and shall approve the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget
7 prior to its formal submission to the office of financial management
8 pursuant to RCW 43.88.030.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.79.445 and 1997 c 454 s 901 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 There is established an account in the state treasury referred to
12 as the "death investigations account" which shall exist for the purpose
13 of receiving, holding, investing, and disbursing funds appropriated or
14 provided in RCW 70.58.107 and any moneys appropriated or otherwise
15 provided thereafter.

16 Moneys in the death investigations account shall be disbursed by
17 the state treasurer once every year on December 31 and at any other
18 time determined by the treasurer. The treasurer shall make
19 disbursements to: The state toxicology laboratory, counties for the
20 cost of autopsies, the (~~University of Washington~~) forensic
21 investigations council to fund the state forensic (~~pathology~~
22 ~~fellowship~~) pathologist program, the state patrol for providing
23 partial funding for the state dental identification system, the
24 criminal justice training commission for training county coroners,
25 medical examiners and their staff, and the state forensic
26 investigations council. Funds from the death investigations account
27 may be appropriated during the 1997-99 biennium for the purposes of
28 statewide child mortality reviews administered by the department of
29 health.

30 The (~~University of Washington and the~~) Washington state forensic
31 investigations council shall (~~jointly~~) determine the yearly amount
32 for the state forensic (~~pathology fellowship~~) pathologist program
33 established by RCW (~~28B.20.426~~) 43.103.030.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.20.426 (Fellowship program in

1 forensic pathology--Funding--Recipient's services to county coroners)
2 and 1991 c 176 s 3 & 1986 c 31 s 1 are each repealed.

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