

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 1847 Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY PICCOLA, NOVEMBER 15, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELFARE, NOVEMBER 15, 1977

AN ACT

1 Creating the Office of County Medical Examiners; granting
2 certain powers and duties; abolishing the Office of Coroner,
3 establishing a Statewide Board of Medical Examiners.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. County Medical Examiner created.

7 (a) There is hereby created in every county of the
8 Commonwealth an Office of County Medical Examiner.

9 (b) The District Attorney shall appoint a person who is
10 either a Doctor of Medicine or a Doctor of Osteopathy to be the
11 County Medical Examiner.

12 (c) The term of the County Medical Examiner shall be four
13 years.

14 (d) The Office of Coroner is hereby abolished, and every
15 person who holds the Office of Coroner on the effective date of
16 this act shall be the County Medical Examiner until the term of
17 Office of Coroner to which said person was elected expires.

18 (e) A person may be the medical examiner for more than one
19 county and said person need not be a resident of the county for

1 which he is the medical examiner.

2 Section 2. Power and duties of County Medical Examiner.

3 The County Medical Examiner shall have the same power and
4 duties as currently vested in the Office of Coroner by law.

5 Section 3. Creation of State board.

6 (a) There is hereby created a State Board of Medical
7 Examiners hereinafter referred to as the "board." It shall
8 consist of the Secretary of Health and two persons appointed by
9 the Governor who shall possess experience in pathology.

10 (b) The board may overrule the County Medical Examiner and
11 the District Attorney regarding the death of any person upon the
12 appeal by:

13 (1) Any person related by blood or marriage to the
14 deceased.

15 (2) Any person accused in any criminal proceeding
16 involving the death.

17 (3) Any municipal, county, or State law enforcement
18 official.

19 Section 4. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect in 60 days.