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HOUSE BILL 1794

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert and Jinkins

Read first time 01/30/17. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1            AN ACT Relating to the death investigations account; and amending  
2            RCW 43.103.090.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.103.090 and 2007 c 200 s 1 are each amended to  
5            read as follows:

6            (1) The council may:

7            (a) Meet at such times and places as may be designated by a  
8            majority vote of the councilmembers or, if a majority cannot agree,  
9            by the chair;

10           (b) Adopt rules governing the council and the conduct of its  
11           meetings;

12           (c) Require reports from the chief of the Washington state patrol  
13           on matters pertaining to the bureau of forensic laboratory services;

14           (d) Authorize the expenditure of up to two hundred fifty thousand  
15           dollars per biennium from the council's death investigations account  
16           appropriation for the purpose of assisting local jurisdictions in the  
17           investigation of multiple deaths involving unanticipated,  
18           extraordinary, and catastrophic events, or involving multiple  
19           jurisdictions. The council shall adopt rules consistent with this  
20           subsection for the purposes of authorizing expenditure of the funds;

1 (e) Authorize the expenditure of up to twenty-five thousand  
2 dollars per biennium from the council's death investigations account  
3 appropriation for the purpose of assisting local jurisdictions to  
4 secure forensic anthropology services or other testing, to determine  
5 the identity of human remains upon a showing of financial need. The  
6 council shall adopt rules consistent with this subsection for the  
7 purposes of authorizing expenditure of the funds;

8 (f) Authorize expenditures from the council's death  
9 investigations account appropriation for the purpose of funding a  
10 statewide case management system for coroners and medical examiners.  
11 The council shall confer with the state association of coroners and  
12 medical examiners in the selection of a statewide system. The council  
13 may adopt rules consistent with this subsection for the purposes of  
14 authorizing expenditure of the funds;

15 (g) Do anything, necessary or convenient, which enables the  
16 council to perform its duties and to exercise its powers; and

17 (~~(g)~~) (h) Be actively involved in the preparation of the bureau  
18 of forensic laboratory services budget and approve the bureau of  
19 forensic laboratory services budget prior to formal submission to the  
20 office of financial management pursuant to RCW 43.88.030.

21 (2) The council shall:

22 (a) Prescribe qualifications for the position of director of the  
23 bureau of forensic laboratory services, after consulting with the  
24 chief of the Washington state patrol. The council shall submit to the  
25 chief of the Washington state patrol a list containing the names of  
26 up to three persons who the council believes meet its qualifications  
27 to serve as director of the bureau of forensic laboratory services.  
28 Minimum qualifications for the director of the bureau of forensic  
29 laboratory services must include successful completion of a  
30 background investigation and polygraph examination. If requested by  
31 the chief of the Washington state patrol, the forensic investigations  
32 council shall submit one additional list of up to three persons who  
33 the forensic investigations council believes meet its qualifications.  
34 The appointment must be from one of the lists of persons submitted by  
35 the forensic investigations council, and the director of the bureau  
36 of forensic laboratory services shall report to the office of the  
37 chief of the Washington state patrol;

38 (b) After consulting with the chief of the Washington state  
39 patrol and the director of the bureau of forensic laboratory  
40 services, the council shall appoint a toxicologist as state

1 toxicologist, who shall report to the director of the bureau of  
2 forensic laboratory services. The appointee shall meet the minimum  
3 standards for employment with the Washington state patrol including  
4 successful completion of a background investigation and polygraph  
5 examination;

6 (c) Establish, after consulting with the chief of the Washington  
7 state patrol, the policies, objectives, and priorities of the bureau  
8 of forensic laboratory services, to be implemented and administered  
9 within constraints established by budgeted resources by the director  
10 of the bureau of forensic laboratory services;

11 (d) Set the salary for the director of the bureau of forensic  
12 laboratory services; and

13 (e) Set the salary for the state toxicologist.

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