

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 485*

Short Title: Medical Investigators/AB.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Lucas; Carrington, Dalton, Forrester, Gulley, Hartsell, Jenkins, Jordan, Kinnaird, Martin of Guilford, Odom, Shaw of Cumberland, Weinstein, and Wellons.

Referred to: Children & Human Resources.

March 25, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY MEDICAL
3 INVESTIGATORS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 130A-382 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 130A-382. County medical ~~examiners; examiners and medical investigators;~~**
7 **appointment; term of ~~office; vacancies.~~ office.**

8 (a) One or more county medical examiners or medical investigators for each
9 county shall be appointed by the Chief Medical Examiner for a three-year term. ~~County~~
10 ~~medical examiners shall be appointed from a list of physicians licensed to practice medicine in~~
11 ~~this State submitted by the medical society of the county in which the appointment is to be made.~~
12 ~~If no names are submitted by the society, the Chief Medical Examiner shall appoint one or more~~
13 ~~medical examiners from physicians in the county licensed to practice medicine in this State. In~~
14 ~~the event no licensed physician in a county accepts an appointment, the Chief Medical Examiner~~
15 ~~may appoint one or more physicians licensed to practice medicine in this State from other~~
16 ~~counties or the local registrar, deputy registrar, subregistrar or coroner. In the event a medical~~
17 ~~examiner is unable to serve in a particular case or for a temporary period of time, the Chief~~
18 ~~Medical Examiner shall designate a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State, the~~
19 ~~local registrar, deputy registrar, subregistrar or coroner.~~

1 **(b)** A medical examiner or medical investigator may serve more than one county.

2 **(c)** The Chief Medical Examiner may take jurisdiction in any case or appoint
3 another medical examiner or medical investigator to do so.

4 **(d)** A medical examiner shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in this
5 State.

6 **(e)** A medical investigator shall:

7 **(1)** Be licensed to practice nursing in this State, or

8 **(2)** Be a physician's assistant registered under the rules of the North
9 Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, or

10 **(3)** Successfully complete a training program in death investigation
11 approved by the Chief Medical Examiner.

12 A county medical investigator appointed pursuant to this Article shall have the same
13 powers and duties as a county medical examiner appointed under this Article."

14 Section 2. G.S. 130A-394 is repealed.

15 Section 3. Chapter 152 of the General Statutes is repealed.

16 Section 4. This act is effective when it becomes law except in those counties
17 with a coroner serving on that date, in which case the act shall become effective upon the
18 sooner of the leaving of office or the expiration of the current term of the coroner.