

Chapter 721

(House Bill 373)

AN ACT concerning

State Postmortem Examiners Commission – Minimum Staffing Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Postmortem Examiners Commission~~ Maryland Department of Health to ensure that the number of staff employed by the State Postmortem Examiners Commission does not fall to a level that would constitute a Phase II violation according to the National Association of Medical Examiners; and generally relating to the State Postmortem Examiners Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Health – General
 Section 5–305(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

5–305.

(a) (1) The Commission may employ a staff in accordance with the State budget for the operation of the Commission and to maintain accreditation.

(2) The staff shall include:

- (i) 1 chief medical examiner;
- (ii) 2 deputy chief medical examiners;
- (iii) Assistant medical examiners;
- (iv) 1 chief State toxicologist, 1 deputy chief State toxicologist, lead toxicologists, and assistant toxicologists;
- (v) 1 serologist;
- (vi) 4 resident medical doctors who are training in forensic pathology;
- (vii) 1 chief forensic investigator, 2 deputy chief forensic investigators, lead forensic investigators, and assistant forensic investigators; and

(viii) 1 autopsy services supervisor, 1 deputy supervisor, lead autopsy technicians, and assistant autopsy technicians.

(3) The Commission may employ any physician on a contract basis for part-time services.

(4) THE ~~COMMISSION~~ DEPARTMENT SHALL ENSURE THAT THE NUMBER OF STAFF EMPLOYED BY THE COMMISSION DOES NOT FALL TO A LEVEL THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE A PHASE II VIOLATION ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.