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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 359, L.D. 540, “An Act to Identify the State’s Unidentified Human Remains”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028-A**, as amended by PL 2025, c. 14, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§3028-A. Disposal of unidentified human remains and abandoned human remains; identification**

This section governs the storage, identification, disposition and expenses related to human remains.

**1. Storage and disposition of human remains.** Whenever unidentified human remains are recovered, the Chief Medical Examiner may store the remains, release them to an educational institution, inter them in an appropriate resting place or have them cremated in accordance with this section. Ashes of remains cremated may be disposed of in any appropriate manner. Human remains uncovered in a cared-for cemetery are excluded from the operation of this subsection. Human remains known to be Indian remains are excluded from the operation of this subsection and must be handled in the manner required by section 2842-B.

The Chief Medical Examiner may assume responsibility for the disposal of identified human remains of a deceased resident of this State that are the subject of a medical examiner case if no one takes custody and control of the human remains for a period of 15 days after the Chief Medical Examiner has completed an autopsy or necessary examination of the human remains, made reasonable inquiry under section 3028-D, subsection 1 and satisfied the requirements of subsection 2. Such abandoned remains may be interred or cremated. The Chief Medical Examiner shall file or cause to be filed a certificate of abandonment in the municipality where the human remains were recovered that indicates the means of disposal.

In the absence of a responsible party, payment of expenses incurred by the Chief Medical Examiner pursuant to this section must be made pursuant to section 3028-D, subsection 2

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 as if the remains were unidentified. The Chief Medical Examiner may seek to recover costs  
2 from the estate or municipality of residence of the deceased.

3 **2. Identification of human remains using DNA.** After the Chief Medical Examiner  
4 has had possession of unidentified human remains for 45 days, the Chief Medical Examiner  
5 shall test the deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA, of the unidentified human remains using  
6 forensic genetic genealogy testing. For purposes of this subsection, "forensic genetic  
7 genealogy testing" means a DNA analysis of a sample of biological material by a laboratory  
8 to develop a profile and search for that profile in a database of personal genomics or using  
9 a direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy service.'

10 Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

11 **'Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
12 allocations are made.

13 **ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE**

14 **Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412**

15 Initiative: Provides funding to contract with a DNA laboratory to extract DNA profiles and  
16 conduct genetic research.

17 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
18 All Other	\$100,000	\$9,000
19		
20 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$9,000

21 '  
22 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
23 number to read consecutively.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section and makes a technical  
26 change.

27 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

28 **(See attached)**