



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 250

S.P. 117

In Senate, January 21, 2025

An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains

Submitted by the Department of the Attorney General pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028-A, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 335, §1, is amended
3 to read:

4 The Chief Medical Examiner may assume responsibility for the disposal of identified
5 human remains of a deceased resident of this State that are the subject of a medical
6 examiner case if no one takes custody and control of the human remains for a period of ~~30~~
7 15 days after the Chief Medical Examiner has both completed an autopsy or necessary
8 examination of the human remains and made reasonable inquiry under section 3028-D,
9 subsection 1. Such abandoned remains may be interred or cremated. The Chief Medical
10 Examiner shall file or cause to be filed a certificate of abandonment in the municipality
11 where the human remains were recovered that indicates the means of disposal.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill authorizes the Chief Medical Examiner to dispose of identified human remains
14 that are the subject of a medical examiner case if no one takes custody and control of the
15 human remains for a period of 15 days, instead of 30 days as in current law, after an autopsy
16 or necessary examination and reasonable inquiries are made.