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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 976, L.D. 1485, “An Act to Create a Minimum Standard of Pathology for Children Under 3 Years of Age Who Die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or an Unknown Cause”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3028, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:

9-A. Certain deaths of children under 3 years of age. If a medical examiner has determined that a child under 3 years of age has died as a result of sudden unknown infant death syndrome, suffocation or strangulation or the medical examiner is unable to determine the cause of death of the child, the Chief Medical Examiner shall conduct:

A. A toxicology test that includes a complete blood count test and testing for c-reactive protein, aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, iron, lead, manganese, mercury and branched and linear perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

B. At the request of the parent or guardian of the child, any additional forensic toxicology testing as long as the testing is readily available or accessible.

The Chief Medical Examiner shall obtain, preserve and retain sufficient tissue and fluid samples and other evidence necessary to make a subsequent determination of the cause of death for 2 years following the date of the death of the child. Such evidence must be made available to an accredited or licensed testing facility at the request of the parent or guardian of the child.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE
Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412**

Initiative: Provides funding for additional toxicology testing of certain deaths of children under 3 years of age.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$14,295	\$14,295
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$14,295	\$14,295

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

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the minority report of the committee, makes the following changes to the bill.

1. It replaces "sudden infant death" with the more current terminology of "sudden unknown infant death."

2. It requires the Chief Medical Examiner to conduct a toxicology test for any child under 3 years of age who died as a result of sudden unknown infant death syndrome, suffocation or strangulation or whose death is unexplained. The test must include a complete blood count test and testing for c-reactive protein, aluminum, arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, iron, lead, manganese, mercury and branched and linear perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

3. It requires the Chief Medical Examiner, at the request of the parent or guardian of the child, to conduct any additional forensic toxicology testing as long as it is readily available or accessible.

4. It requires the Chief Medical Examiner to obtain, preserve and retain sufficient tissue and fluid samples for 2 years after the death of the child. The evidence must be made available to a testing facility at the request of the parent or guardian of the child.

5. It adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)