



OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

STATE OF MAINE
37 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0037



Alice Briones, DO
Chief Medical Examiner

ocme@maine.gov

Telephone: (207) 624-7180
Fax: (207) 624-7178

Liam Funte, MD, PhD
Deputy Chief Medical Examiner

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn
Committee on Judiciary
132nd Maine Legislature

Re: LD 248

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the committee,

I am Lindsey Chasteen, the Office Administrator for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). I am speaking today on LD 248, An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations. The Office Administrator position was established in 1997 and was responsible for the daily “behind-the-scenes” of the agency. As the office has grown, so have the responsibilities.

Per statute (Chap. 711 §3022(2-A)) this position “shall perform such duties as may be delegated by the Chief Medical Examiner”. The current job description is a broken hyperlink to the statute. Over the years, this position has become the equivalent of a Director, responsible for creating/managing the budget, hiring/disciplining, vetting vendors, managing contracts, being the media liaison, and working with outside agencies. In an office with 12 other staff (11 FTE and 1 grant funded), this position directly, or indirectly supervises 10 of those people.

LD 248 looks to change the current title of “Office Administrator” to “Director of Medical Examiner Operations” to better capture the responsibilities of the role, and make clear that this role is within the Medical Examiner’s Office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsey Chasteen, MBA
Office Administrator

Enc.

Office of Chief Medical Examiner Organizational Chart

