

- 1 (1) The extent to which suspicious deaths are unreported or underreported
2 and the reasons therefor;
- 3 (2) The extent to which certification of the causes of natural deaths is
4 inaccurate or incomplete;
- 5 (3) Whether investigations are conducted when the cause of death is
6 unknown or has occurred under suspicious circumstances, and the
7 adequacy of investigations;
- 8 (4) Whether county medical examiners are adequately trained in
9 conducting postmortem examinations and investigations;
- 10 (5) Whether funding of the State and county medical examiner offices is
11 adequate to carry out statutory duties and serve the public interest;
- 12 (6) The consequences to the public interest when vital statistics records
13 are inaccurate or provide insufficient information on the cause of
14 death;
- 15 (7) The consequences to the community and family members when there
16 are errors in accurately determining and reporting the cause of death;
17 and
- 18 (8) Other matters relevant to determining the efficiency and effectiveness
19 in the operation of the State's medical examiner system.

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Study Commission shall consist of 13 members, 11
21 members appointed as follows:

- 22 (1) Five members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
23 three of whom shall be members of the Senate at the time of
24 appointment, one individual nominated by the Association of County
25 Commissioners, and one individual who is a county medical examiner
26 or a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State.
- 27 (2) Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
28 Representatives, three of whom shall be members of the House of
29 Representatives at the time of appointment, one individual nominated
30 by the North Carolina Public Health Association, and one individual
31 nominated by the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force.
- 32 (3) One member appointed by the Governor who is a member of the
33 general public.

34 The Chief Medical Examiner and the State Health Director shall be ex officio members
35 of the Commission. Appointed and ex officio members shall be voting members.

36 **SECTION 1.(c)** The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker
37 of the House of Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Study Commission
38 from their appointees.

39 **SECTION 1.(d)** With the prior approval of the Legislative Services
40 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional staff to assist in
41 the work of the Study Commission on Medical Examiners. With the prior approval of

1 the Legislative Services Commission, the Study Commission may hold its meetings in
2 the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

3 **SECTION 1.(e)** The Study Commission shall submit a final written report of
4 its findings and recommendations on or before the convening of the 2003 Session of the
5 General Assembly and may submit a report to the 2002 Regular Session of the 2001
6 General Assembly. All reports shall be filed with the President Pro Tempore of the
7 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Legislative Librarian.
8 Upon filing its final report, the Study Commission shall terminate.

9 **SECTION 1.(f)** Members of the Study Commission shall be paid per diem,
10 subsistence, and travel allowances as follows:

- 11 (1) Study Commission members who are also members of the General
12 Assembly, at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1;
- 13 (2) Study Commission members who are officials or employees of the
14 State or local government agencies, at the rate established in G.S.
15 138-6;
- 16 (3) All other Study Commission members, at the rate established in G.S.
17 138-5.

18 **SECTION 2.** From funds appropriated to the General Assembly for the
19 2001-2003 fiscal biennium, the Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds
20 for the expenses of the Study Commission on Medical Examiners.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.