

SENATE, No. 814

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 1996

By Senator MARTIN

1 AN ACT concerning the State medical examiner and amending  
2 R.S.26:8-52.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. R.S.26:8-52 is amended to read as follows:

8 26:8-52. Corrections to death certificates shall be signed by the  
9 physician, registered professional nurse, county medical examiner,  
10 State [medical examiner] Medical Examiner, funeral director or  
11 informant, whose name appears upon the certificate; however, any  
12 individual having personal knowledge and substantiating documentary  
13 proof of the matters sought to be corrected may apply under oath to  
14 the county medical examiner or the State Medical Examiner in a case  
15 in which the certificate was signed by the State Medical Examiner, to  
16 have the certificate corrected. The authority to sign corrections or  
17 amendments to causes or duration of causes of death is restricted to  
18 the physician, State [medical examiner] Medical Examiner or county  
19 medical examiner. Upon denial of an application for correction or  
20 amendment of a death certificate, a person who has applied to a  
21 county medical examiner may apply to the State Medical Examiner,  
22 who shall exercise discretion to review the matter and amend the  
23 certificate or to defer to the decision of the county medical examiner.  
24 The decision of the county medical examiner shall be deemed the final  
25 decision by a public officer in the matter unless the State Medical  
26 Examiner amends or corrects the certificate.

27 (cf. P.L.1983, c.308 s.3)

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29 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill amends R.S.26:8-52 to allow the State medical examiner  
34 to sign off on corrections to death certificates. The bill also gives the

**EXPLANATION** - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 State Medical Examiner the authority to sign off on corrections or  
2 amendments to death certificates relating to the causes or duration of  
3 causes of death.

4 The bill also provides that upon denial of an application for  
5 correction or amendment of a death certificate, a person who has  
6 applied to a county medical examiner may apply to the State Medical  
7 Examiner who may review the matter and amend the certificate or  
8 defer to the decision of the county medical examiner. The decision of  
9 the county medical examiner shall be deemed the final decision by a  
10 public officer in the matter unless the State Medical Examiner amends  
11 or corrects the death certificate.

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16 Allows State medical examiner to sign corrections to death  
17 certificates.