

FEB 3 1999  
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 193  
BY GARMAN *2/15/99 Sponsor added Davis*

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the operational control of the state medical  
2 | examiner.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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*HF 193*

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 7.17A OFFICE OF STATE MEDICAL  
2 EXAMINER.

3 Subject to the provisions of sections 691.5 through 691.7,  
4 the governor shall establish the office of state medical  
5 examiner within the office of the governor and shall appoint  
6 the state medical examiner.

7 Sec. 2. Section 691.5, Code 1999, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 691.5 STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER.

10 The position of state medical examiner is created under the  
11 control, direction, and supervision of the ~~commissioner-of~~  
12 ~~public-safety~~ office of the governor. ~~The-commissioner-of~~  
13 ~~public-safety-may-assign-the-office-of-the-state-medical~~  
14 ~~examiner-to-a-division-or-bureau-within-the-public-safety~~  
15 ~~department~~. Other state agencies shall cooperate with the  
16 state medical examiner in the use of state-owned facilities  
17 when appropriate for the performance of nonadministrative  
18 duties of the state medical examiner. The state medical  
19 examiner shall be a physician and surgeon or osteopathic  
20 physician and surgeon, be licensed to practice medicine in the  
21 state of Iowa, and possess special knowledge in forensic  
22 pathology. The state medical examiner shall be appointed by  
23 and serve at the pleasure of the ~~commissioner-of-public-safety~~  
24 governor. The state medical examiner may be a faculty member  
25 of the college of medicine or the college of law at the  
26 University of Iowa, and any of the examiner's assistants or  
27 staff may be members of the faculty or staff of the college of  
28 medicine or the college of law at the University of Iowa.

29 Sec. 3. Section 691.6, subsection 3, Code 1999, is amended  
30 to read as follows:

31 3. To adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A, and subject to  
32 the approval of the ~~commissioner-of-public-safety~~ office of  
33 the governor, regarding the manner and techniques to be  
34 employed while conducting autopsies; the nature, character,  
35 and extent of investigations to be made in cases of homicide

1 or suspected homicide necessary to allow a medical examiner to  
2 render a full and complete analysis and report; the format and  
3 matters to be contained in all reports rendered by medical  
4 examiners; and all other things necessary to carry out this  
5 section. All county medical examiners and peace officers are  
6 subject to the rules.

7 Sec. 4. Section 691.7, Code 1999, is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 | 691.7 ~~COMMISSIONER-TO-ACCEPT~~ ACCEPTING FEDERAL OR PRIVATE  
10 GRANTS.

11 The commissioner of public safety may accept federal or  
12 private funds or grants to aid in the establishment or  
13 operation of the state criminalistics laboratory, and the  
14 ~~commissioner-of-public-safety~~ office of the governor or the  
15 board of regents may accept federal or private funds or grants  
16 to aid in the establishment or operation of the position of  
17 state medical examiner.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill transfers the authority and control over the  
20 state medical examiner to the governor and the governor's  
21 office from the commissioner of public safety. The bill  
22 provides that the state medical examiner shall be appointed by  
23 and serve at the pleasure of the governor.

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