



# SB 13 MEDICAL EXAMINER AMENDMENTS

SOCIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
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ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

This issue brief provides an update to the Legislature on the implementation of SB 13 *Medical Examiner Amendments* passed during the 2012 General Session (<http://le.utah.gov/~2012/bills/sbillenr/SB0013.pdf>). The Legislature funded SB 13's implementation with \$350,000 ongoing General Fund. This brief is for informational purposes only and requires no Legislative action.

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Effective May, 8 2012, SB 13 *Medical Examiner Amendments* changed the custody of the Medical Examiner to include all highway deaths. The Legislature provided the Department of Health with \$350,000 ongoing General Fund cost to handle the new cases beginning in FY 2013.

### ***What has Changed?***

The Medical Examiner now examines and has custody of all highway deaths. Previously the Medical Examiner only took custody of highway deaths at the request of law enforcement. The Medical Examiner has handled approximately 172 new cases through December 2012 in FY 2013, with a projected 344 total new cases in FY13. The original cost estimate assumed 201 new cases for all of FY 2013.

### ***How Did the Department of Health Use the \$350,000 Ongoing Appropriation?***

The \$350,000 ongoing General Fund went to two programs in the Department of Health: (1) \$268,900 for the Medical Examiner and (2) \$81,100 for the State laboratory.

The Medical Examiner received \$268,900 in ongoing funding. Below are plans for the ongoing costs for all but \$60,300 of the funding:

<b>FY 2013 Expenditures</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Personnel	\$115,000
Body transportation	\$36,800
Vendor investigator	\$17,500
Lab cost increase	\$17,300
Medical supplies	\$12,000
Investigation training	\$5,000
Investigative supplies	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$208,600</b>

The Medical Examiner has about \$100,000 in autopsy morgue equipment it would like to buy to help with the increase in cases. This equipment includes \$45,000 to improve outside investigator access to the Medical Examiner database, \$40,000 for improved x-ray capability, and \$10,000 for autopsy tools.

The State laboratory used its \$81,100 increase in funding to hire on additional forensic scientist to perform drug testing for the additional case load.