

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No. H2392

Title: *An Act relative to autopsy reports by the medical examiner*

Sponsor: Representative Marjorie C. Decker/Representative Hannah Kane

Committee: Public Health

Hearing Date: July 10, 2025

Similar Matters: None

Prior History: Similar to H3623 of 23-24; Referred to Public Health; Reported favorably by committee and referred to the Committee on House Ways and Means; No further action taken.

Reporting Deadline: September 8, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 38** pertains to medical examiners and inquests.
- **M.G.L. Chapter 38 § 4** pertains to investigations of reported deaths by the chief medical examiner and also provides for the medical examiner taking jurisdiction of a deceased person's body upon making certain determinations.

Summary:

This bill would add a new paragraph to section 4 of chapter 38 of the General Laws to require a chief medical examiner to conduct an autopsy and provide an autopsy report within 90 days upon taking jurisdiction of the body of a deceased person. If the report will not be completed within this timeframe, the medical examiner must provide a notice of delay, including a completion date and reason for delay. Additionally, this bill requires the medical examiner to submit a report by December 31 of each even-numbered year to the clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Joint Committee on Public Health. The report must include:

- Number of autopsies completed within 90 days of the date that the medical examiner took jurisdiction
- Number of autopsies that were not completed within 90 days of the date that the medical examiner took jurisdiction
- Reasoning behind why autopsies were not completed within the 90-day time frame.