

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Lihelaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
270-37 (COR)	Chris Barnett Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 8114 TO CHAPTER 81, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.	4/15/24 4:25 p.m.	4/23/24	Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture	Request: 4/23/24 4/30/24			Referred Version 4/22/24



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson
I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37th Guam Legislature

April 30, 2024

To: **Joaquin P. Taitague**
Clerk of the Legislature

From: **Senator Chris Barnett** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Fiscal Note for Bill No. 270-37 (COR)**

Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!

Find the attached, Fiscal Note for the following bill:

Bill No. 270-37 (COR).

I also request that the same be sent to the respective Chairperson of the Standing Committee, to which this bill has been referred. Kindly forward the same to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.



Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 270-37 (COR)

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 81114 TO CHAPTER 81, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO THE EMPLOYMENT OF MEDICOLEGAL DEATH INVESTIGATORS BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

Department/Agency Appropriation Information	
Dept./Agency Affected: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (CME)	Dept./Agency Head: Dr. Jeffrey Nine, CME
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$707,958
Department's Other Fund appropriation(s) to date:	\$0
Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:	\$707,958

Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation			
	General Fund:	Other Fund:	Total:
FY 2023 Unreserved Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2024 Adopted Revenues	\$0	0	0
FY 2024 Appro. (P.L. 37-42)	\$0	0	0
Sub-total:	\$0	0	0
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	0	0
Total:	\$0	0	0

Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill						
	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2024 (if applicable)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
General Fund	\$	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Recycling Revolving Fund 1/	\$	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Total	\$	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? // Yes /X/ No
If Yes, see attachment
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? /X/ N/A // Yes // No
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ _____ /X/ N/A
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? // // Yes /X/ No
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? /X/ N/A // Yes // No
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? // // Yes /X/ No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? // // Yes /X/ No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: /X/ Yes // No
/X/ Requested agency comments not received by due date: // Other:

Analyst: Bernice Torres	Date: <u>4/29/24</u>	Director: Lester L. Carlson, Jr., Director	Date: <u>APR 30 2024</u>
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Notes:
1/ See attached comments.

Bureau of Budget & Management Research
Comments on Bill No. 270-37 (COR)

Bill No. 270-37 (COR) is an act to add a new § 81114 to Chapter 81, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated relative to the employment of Medicolegal Death Investigators by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The proposed legislation will enable the Office of Post Mortem Examinations/Chief Medical Examiner to employ registered and certified medicolegal death investigators as employees that aid in the investigations that determine the cause of death of deceased persons. The Bill also provides for the Department of Administration to develop the job descriptions and pay grades for the position of medicolegal death investigator under the Office of Post Mortem Examinations/Chief Medical Examiner, and to be created within the merit system and the classified service of the Government of Guam. The Bill further provides that the Office of Post Mortem Examinations/Chief Medical Examiner may petition the Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission to develop any additional standards that might be necessary for medicolegal death investigators, as law enforcement officer beyond those recommended by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators.

According to an internet query on the govsalaries.com website, a Medicolegal Death Investigator position in the United States earns an average salary of \$55,604 with a salary range between \$50,253 and \$71,212 per year, representing the 25th to 75th percentiles respectively. Using this average salary, the annual cost impact for personnel salaries and benefits of the position is estimated at \$83,380.98 (see table below). Additionally, it was noted in a guam.pdn.com article, dated April 22, 2024, that the Commission on Post Mortem Examinations approved a motion for the Chief Medical Examiner to work with the Office of the Attorney General to petition the Department of Administration to authorize a total of four death investigator positions. As such, the estimated annual cost impact to hire a total of 4 Medicolegal Death Investigators is \$333,523.92.

Position Title	Salary	Benefits 1/	Total	Total x 4
Medicolegal Death Investigator	\$55,604.00	\$27,776.98	\$83,380.98	\$333,523.92

1/ See attachment for estimated fringe benefits calculation.

The Bureau had sought input on the financial impact of the proposed Bill 270-37 from the OCME and has not received any official comments as of the date of this fiscal note. However, the Bureau expects there will be additional costs for providing office furniture and computer equipment for these new hires, however, is undetermined at this time.

As Bill 270-37 does not provide for an appropriation to fund the proposed Medicolegal Death Investigator position(s) once established, and other noted operating costs, the OCME would then have to absorb these costs from its current budget and/or annual fiscal year appropriation.

Department:	Office of Chief Medical Examiner	
Division:	CME	
Position Title:	Medicolegal Death Investigator	
Pay Grade/Step:		

Estimated Effective Date	4/25/24
Remaining Pay Periods	26
Position Salary Per Annum	\$55,604.00
Position Salary Per Hour	\$26.73

Estimated Salary	
Single Pay Period Cost (\$/hr * 80 hrs)	\$2,138.62
Total (Single PP Cost * Remain PPs)	\$55,604.00

Estimated Fringe Benefits	
Retirement (Est. Salary * 29.43%)	\$16,364.26
DDI (Remaining PPs * \$19.01)	\$494.26
Medicare (Est. Salary * 1.45%)	\$806.26
Life (Remaining PPs * \$7.20)	\$187.20
Medical (Medical PP Cost * Remaining PPs)	\$9,596.00
Dental (Dental PP Cost * Remaining PPs)	\$329.00
Total	\$27,776.98

Single Pay Period Cost (Fringe Benefits)	
Retirement	\$629.39
DDI	\$19.01
Medicare	\$31.01
Life	\$7.20
Medical	\$369.08
Dental	\$12.65
Total	\$1,068.35

FY 2024 MEDICAL / DENTAL RATES			
	Medical		Dental
	HSA2000	PPO1500	
Class I	\$ 3,994.00	\$ 6,117.00	\$ 298.00
Class II	\$ 6,929.00	\$ 11,231.00	\$ 394.00
Class III	\$ 5,709.00	\$ 9,596.00	\$ 329.00
Class IV	\$ 9,340.00	\$ 15,670.00	\$ 530.00

Medical Breakdown	
Insurance Plan Amount	\$9,596.00
PP Cost (Insurance Plan / 26 PPs)	\$369.08

Dental Breakdown	
Insurance Plan Amount	\$329.00
PP Cost (Insurance Plan / 26 PPs)	\$12.65

TOTAL	\$83,380.98
Estimated Salary and Fringe Benefits	