



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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ABOLISH STATE POLICE DENTAL RECORDS

House Bill 5005 as introduced
First Analysis (12-12-89)

RECEIVED

Sponsor: Rep. Gregory E. Pitoniak
Committee: Public Health

MAR 05 1990
Mich. State Law Library

H.B. 5005 (12-12-89)

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Public Health Code requires the state police to keep dental examination records and dental records sent them by county medical examiners in cases where dead bodies cannot be identified and by law enforcement agencies investigating missing person reports. However, in practice the state police no longer keep such records because since the health code was enacted a national system has been developed for identifying people by means of dental records. The state police now direct local officials to enter dental information directly into the National Crime Information Center. The health code needs to be amended to reflect current practices.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to delete provisions making the state police the repository or computer center for dental examination records and dental records and requiring them to use the records to assist in the identification of unidentified bodies and the search for missing persons. Instead, the bill would require that dental examination information of unidentified dead bodies be sent to the appropriate law enforcement agency, which would then be responsible for entering the records into the National Crime Information Center. The bill would also require that in cases of missing persons investigations, the investigating law enforcement agency enter the dental records into the national system.

MCL 333.2804 and 333.2844a

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

There is no information at present.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to make it conform to current practices regarding the use of dental examination information from unidentified dead bodies and the dental records of missing persons. Since the development of a complete national dental information system, the state police no longer acts as the repository of such records in the state.

POSITIONS:

The Department of State Police supports the bill, which was introduced at its request. (12-8-89)

The Michigan Dental Association indicated its support for the bill before the House Public Health Committee. (12-7-89)