STATE OF NEW YORK

8420--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

December 29, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER, HYNDMAN, DeSTEFANO, O'DONNELL, BRABENEC, LEMONDES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Governments in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the county law, in relation to coroner qualifications

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 400 of the county law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3-c to read as follows:

3-c. Coroner qualifications. Any elected or appointed coroner who is not a physician duly licensed to practice medicine shall be a certified nurse practitioner or licensed physician assistant authorized to practice pursuant to title eight of the education law, or shall be a certified medicolegal death investigator or hold an associate's or bachelor's degree in nursing, natural science, forensic science, anthropology or other related field while pursuing certification from the American board of medicolegal death investigators or similar professional organization. Any coroner who is not so licensed or certified, or who does not have such degree while pursuing such certification as of the effective date of this subdivision may finish out their term.

§ 2. Subdivision 4-b of section 400 of the county law, as added by chapter 897 of the laws of 1962, is amended to read as follows:

4-b. Coroner's physician. Except in counties where the office of coroner has been abolished, the board of supervisors may appoint one or more coroner's physicians or may provide by local law for the appointment of one or more coroner's physicians, and may fix the terms of their office. In any county in which the coroner or any of the coroners is not a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in this state, the board shall appoint one or more coroner's physicians.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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Each coroner's physician appointed pursuant to this subdivision **must be a physician duly licensed to practice medicine in this state and** shall by virtue of [~~his~~] **their** office be a deputy coroner and shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the coroner, during the absence or inability of the coroner to act, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of coroner.

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.