



March 4, 2021

**Memorandum of Support**  
House Bill 974- As Amended

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) supports the March 1st amendment language of House Bill 974 to ensure that the newly established position of "Medical Examiner Investigator," is a person "appointed and trained" and expressly subject to supervision by the State Medical Examiner, and, furthermore, in this position may "assist with the performance or completion of autopsies" or other duties assigned by the Medical Examiner (ME), but within specified statutory limits. Moreover, that these individuals can "assist with certification of deaths." Amendment of HB 974 with these stipulations is supported by CAP.

The CAP believes the amendments are critically important for the following reasons:

- Medical Examiner Investigators are not qualified to independently complete autopsies or certify deaths.
- The statute should make explicitly clear that ME investigators are appointed, trained and supervised by the Medical Examiner.
- ME investigators' role must be circumscribed to exclusively "assist" the ME; thus the legislation should not confer on them responsibilities that are unsupervised, and expressly clarify that investigators have no independent authority to complete autopsies or certify deaths.
- The assistance of technical personnel will facilitate the ability of the ME to robustly perform the critical function of the ME role, while providing additional labor and resources , subordinate to ME supervision.