

By Mr. Forman of Plymouth, petition of Peter Forman relative to the transfer of dead persons by district attorneys for medical examiners. Health Care.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF DEAD BODIES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 6 of Chapter 38 of the 1990 Official  
2 Edition of the General Laws as most recently amended by Chap-  
3 ter 380 of the Acts of 1990 is hereby amended by striking the  
4 second paragraph in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the  
5 following new paragraph: —

6 If the medical examiner is unable to respond and take charge  
7 of the dead body in an expeditious manner, the district attorney  
8 or his designee, in consultation with the local medical examiner  
9 or the Chief Medical Examiner, may authorize the transfer of the  
10 body to the regional medical examiner's office or to a funeral  
11 home after documenting all facts relevant to the appearance,  
12 condition and position of the body and every fact and  
13 circumstance tending to show the cause and circumstances of  
14 death and, upon removal of any such body, shall so notify the  
15 next of kin, if known, or cause them to be notified, that the district  
16 attorney is taking jurisdiction of the body and of the next location  
17 to which the deceased person will be taken.

1 SECTION 2. Section 6 of Chapter 38 of the 1990 Official  
2 Edition of the General Laws as most recently amended by Chap-  
3 ter 30 of the Acts of 1990 is hereby amended by striking in line 105  
4 the words "chief of police or his representative" and inserting in  
5 place thereof the following words: — "district attorney or his  
6 designee".

