



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire
Coroner

Dear Transportation, Housing, and Local Government committee members,

In reference to House Bill 24-1100, I am in an amend position. I am a little apprehensive about this bill and some potential unseen consequences this bill may have in subsequent elections for coroner. I do completely understand the position of those who initiated this bill and I understand their concern. I'm not worried about the extra training and requirements for coroner, those are great. In fact, I think all of Colorado's 63 county coroners should have the requirement to be a forensic pathologist or in good standing with ABMDI.

This written testimony mainly applies to my questions and comments on the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (ABMDI) certifications. Forensic pathologists are highly qualified individuals and are generally considered the gold standard of professionals in the death investigation profession.

It would be a tall order to have all candidates for coroner in our state to become ABMDI certified, especially with the very small counties. It would be a fair compromise and a meaningful solution, to require all county coroners to be ABMDI certified and in good standing within an allowable time frame after taking office. This is a process similar to our county sheriffs. A locally elected county sheriff must be POST certified within one year of becoming the sheriff but they do not need to be POST certified to be a candidate for sheriff.

It is also important to know how one becomes a certified medicolegal death investigator with the ABMDI. To be certified, you must be employed and practicing death investigations with a coroner's office and often the certification is obtained with support of the coroner in that county. This means that usually the coroner has determination in who becomes or doesn't become ABMDI certified in their office. Essentially, a coroner in a county who has this law in place, could dictate who his or her successor will be by simply supporting their road to ABMDI certification. Unlike peace officer certification, there is no death investigator academy in Colorado where a candidate can spend six months becoming certified to be a peace officer.

I'm also concerned about navigating away from the reason we have elections at a local level. We elect a person from our community to hold the office. By restricting this position to a number of people in any one county, you are severely limiting the options for a community. In Mesa County, which has a population of more than 150,000, there are only a handful of people that meet this requirement. If there was an election today, rather than having a well-qualified leader who has background in medicine, criminal justice, or forensic sciences, you might be limiting that election to a very poor leader, maybe with a storied past, but hey, they are in good standing with the ABMDI or they are a forensic pathologist. Mesa county currently has two forensic pathologists, one of which is semi-retired and five ABMDI certified death investigators. But I'm sure there are more than 100 qualified and proven leaders practicing medicine, forensic science, and criminal justice in Mesa County that if elected, could obtain their ABMDI certification within a year. In Garfield County, I do require that I maintain good standing with ABMDI and that the two full time investigators who work for me in my office are certified and in good standing with ABMDI. We are the only three people in Garfield County who are ABMDI certified. Unless you work for a coroner's office, you can't become ABMDI certified. If this bill passes, I will be recommending to the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners not to enact the provision of requiring ABMDI. It's simply undemocratic to restrict people from being able to oppose an elected official.

With the ABMDI being an out of state private organization, what happens if the ABMDI, for lack of better terms, goes out of business, or fails to provide the same services they do when if this law is passed? There is no provision in this bill that would provide a separate option other than ABMDI or remove the requirement entirely, for those non-pathologists' candidates, to be eligible for election. It would be especially bad timing if it occurred after the legislative season on an election year. While very unlikely, it would be devastating to some counties to have ABMDI go defunct in July of an election year. There may be no candidates in several counties that are in good standing with the ABMDI if it doesn't exist.

If a board of county commissioners (BOCC) in a smaller county enact this provision in good faith, and no one is qualified, what happens next? The proposed legislation does not cover this scenario. Let's say no qualified candidates ran for coroner, would the BOCC then be able to remove the provision and appoint a coroner? What would prevent a BOCC from enacting the legislation to specifically limit candidates so that they can later appoint a friend or political ally to the role?


Lastly, I'm afraid this provision would be used as a tool to enshrine a coroner and limit future candidates from applying, essentially keeping a coroner in their position in some counties. A few years ago, I heard of a coroner that wanted a similar bill in place because the coroner didn't want someone from the sheriff's office taking their job. That coroner wanted to limit the other candidates in their county. That Colorado county with a population of over 500,000 residents only has two people listed as ABMDI certified in that county. The coroner and one employee. In this highly populated county, it is very possible that there will be less than a handful of people that would be eligible to run for coroner.

An amendment requiring all coroners to obtain certification and good standing with ABMDI or the gold standard of being a board-certified forensic pathologist, within a year of taking office would increase the meaningful standards of all Colorado coroners and still allow any citizen to offer their candidacy in service to their community to lead their county coroner's office.

I urge you to look at House Bill 19-1130 – County Sheriff Qualification Training Requirements. This bill is similar to the bill currently being considered. It would have required a sheriff candidate to be POST certified at the time of candidacy as opposed to the current requirement that they have one year. Although for a different position, it is an elected county position that anyone should have the opportunity to offer their candidacy. This bill failed in the house 19 to 46. I've attached the bill and an amendment that failed in committee.

I'm respectfully asking that you consider two amendments to this bill. 1) Require all Colorado coroners, who are not board-certified forensic pathologists, to become ABMDI certified. 2) Provide an allowable time (one to three years depending on population of county) for all of Colorado coroners to become ABMDI certified following their oath of office. The enforcement of the requirement for coroners to become certified would then be overseen by the Colorado Coroners Standards and Training Board which already enforces training requirements for Colorado Coroners.

Thank you and respectfully,


Robert Glassmire
Garfield County Coroner
February 12, 2024

Attached: HB19-1130, HB19-1130_L.002, ABMDI Qualifications.

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-0747.01 Gregg Fraser x4325

HOUSE BILL 19-1130

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Liston and Hooton, Beckman, Catlin, Landgraf, Larson, Soper

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cooke and Fields, Gardner

House Committees
Judiciary

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT A PERSON HAVE A CERTIFICATION**
102 **FROM THE COLORADO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND**
103 **TRAINING BOARD IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS THE**
104 **ELECTED SHERIFF OF A COUNTY OF THE STATE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Current law requires the sheriff of each county to obtain peace officer certification within one year of taking office. The bill modifies this provision to require the sheriff to have a valid certification or

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

provisional certification from the Colorado peace officer standards and training board in order to be nominated, elected, or appointed to the office of sheriff.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-10-501.5, **amend**
3 (1)(b) as follows:

4 **30-10-501.5. Qualifications.** (1) No person is eligible for
5 nomination, election, or appointment to the office of sheriff unless the
6 person:

7 (b) Possesses a high school diploma or its equivalent or a college
8 degree AND A VALID CERTIFICATION OR PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION FROM
9 THE COLORADO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD;

10 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 30-10-501.6, **repeal**
11 (1)(b) as follows:

12 **30-10-501.6. Training.** (1) Every person elected or appointed to
13 the office of sheriff for the first time shall:

14 ~~(b) Obtain basic peace officer certification within one year of~~
15 ~~taking office. An extension may be granted by the Colorado peace~~
16 ~~officers standards and training board of up to one year to obtain such~~
17 ~~certification upon just cause shown. The Colorado peace officers~~
18 ~~standards and training board shall issue written findings of fact~~
19 ~~supporting such an extension.~~

20 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date -**
21 **applicability.** (1) This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following
22 the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the
23 general assembly (August 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3,
24 2019); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1

1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section,
2 or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part
3 will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election
4 to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the
5 date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

6 (2) This act applies to a person nominated, elected, or appointed
7 to the office of sheriff on or after the applicable effective date of this act.

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT

Second Reading

BY REPRESENTATIVE Liston

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, lines 2 and 3, strike "**amend** (1)(b)" and
2 substitute "**add** (1)(b.5)".

3 Page 2, strike lines 7 through 9 and substitute:

4 "(b.5) POSSESSES A VALID CERTIFICATION OR PROVISIONAL
5 CERTIFICATION FROM THE COLORADO PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND
6 TRAINING BOARD IF SUCH CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED BY A DULY
7 ADOPTED RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE
8 COUNTY IN WHICH THE SHERIFF WILL SERVE. ANY SUCH RESOLUTION
9 SHALL BE ADOPTED NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1 OF THE YEAR IN WHICH
10 THE SHERIFF IS TO BE ELECTED. A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
11 MAY ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO EITHER REQUIRE OR NOT REQUIRE
12 CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (1)(b.5), HOWEVER, IT MAY
13 NOT DO SO MORE THAN ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS."

14 Page 2, line 10, strike "**repeal**" and substitute "**amend**".

15 Page 2, strike lines 14 through 19 and substitute:

16 "(b) UNLESS A BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAS ADOPTED
17 A RESOLUTION REQUIRING CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION
18 30-10-501.5 (1)(b.5), obtain basic peace officer certification within one
19 year of taking office. An extension may be granted by the Colorado peace
20 officers standards and training board of up to one year to obtain such
21 certification upon just cause shown. The Colorado peace officers
22 standards and training board shall issue written findings of fact
23 supporting such an extension."

** ** ** ** **


[Apply Online](#)
[ABMDI Home](#)
[Death Investigation Guidelines](#)
[Registry Certification \(basic\)](#)
[Application Process](#)
[Performance Training Guidebook Checklist](#)
[Registry Examination](#)
[Registry Certification Fees](#)
[Board Certification \(advanced\)](#)
[Bylaws](#)
[Policy and Procedures](#)
[Registry Diplomates](#)
[Board Certified Fellows](#)
[Certificant Directory](#)
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Registry Certification (basic)

The Registry certification is the initial certification that provides official recognition that an individual has acquired basic knowledge and demonstrated proficiency in the standards of practice necessary to properly conduct a competent, thorough medicolegal death investigation.

Eligibility

1. Must be at least eighteen years of age at time of application.
2. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
3. Must currently be employed by a Medical Examiner/Coroner jurisdiction or equivalent federal authority and have the experience and responsibility to independently conduct medicolegal death scene investigations or supervise such investigations at time of application and examination.
 - i. For applicants to "independently conduct a medicolegal death scene investigation," as referenced above, refers to the death investigator performing death scene investigations in person on location at the death scene. This includes but is not limited to completing a body examination (e.g., document injuries and personally assess postmortem changes), photographing the scene, completing an investigative report, etc.
 - ii. For applicants to "supervise such investigations" means that the applicant must have prior experience independently conducting medicolegal death scene investigations, as referenced in this document.
 - iii. Applicants in reserve positions would not qualify as being currently employed as defined above unless they are currently activated.
4. Applicants shall have experience as a Medicolegal Death Investigator.
5. 640 points are required and the activity must have been completed within five years of the date of application submission.
 1. Employment Experience (Minimum 384 points required, may be used for all 640 points.)
 - Full or part time employment
 - One (1) hour is equivalent to one (1) point.
 - On call employment
 - Each on-call hour = 0.25 points (Maximum 100 points)
 - Investigation of a natural death, no scene investigation = 1 point
 - Investigation of non-natural death, no scene investigation = 2.5 points
 - Investigation of a death with scene investigation = 5 points
 - Secondary investigator or intern at the scene = 2.5 points (Maximum 100 points)

If I do not have the full 640 points in employment experience I will use the following categories for points:

2. Advanced Degree
3. Education/Training
4. Viewing Forensic Autopsies

DISCLAIMER: Currently, the ABMDI does not endorse any program that claims to fulfill the requirements of certification or prepare an individual for the certification exam.

Application Process

Applications are available upon receipt of an [application request form](#). The \$50 non-refundable application fee must accompany the request form.

Included in the Registry application packet:

1. Application Form (Code of Ethics included)
2. Employment Verification Form verifying 640 hours of work experience and current employment in a Medical Examiner/Coroner office or equivalent federal authority with the primary responsibility of death investigation (requires notarization). *this requirement applies to application and examination
3. Professional Reference form
4. Performance Training Guidebook Checklist with ABMDI instructions (see below for more details).

In order to be eligible to sit for the Registry exam, the individual must complete the application packet in its entirety. *Note: Applicants who begin the process within one jurisdiction and subsequently move to another, must provide a notarized employment verification form from each jurisdiction indicating the length of employment.*

Application materials must be completed in their entirety and returned to the ABMDI office at least 30 days prior to the desired examination date.

There is an 18 month time limit to complete the application process and sit for the exam. If, after 18 months, you have not completed all application requirements or tested, your file will become inactive and your application fee will be forfeited. You will be required to reapply and pay the current application fee in order to start the process again.

Performance Training Guidebook Checklist

[Copy of Registry Performance Training Checklist in Acrobat Reader](#) -- **This is only a copy and should not be sent in with other application materials.**

Medicolegal Death Investigators have standards of practice that require performance of specialized, technical skills, e.g., initial body examination at the scene, drawing postmortem specimens for analysis, etc. There are many specialized procedures that are fundamental and are necessary to perform a thorough medicolegal death investigation. Proof that an individual is experienced in correctly performing these tasks is required to show his/her competency. Successful performance of all 300+ tasks identified in the Checklist must be verified in writing by a competent practitioner working in the field who has personal

knowledge that the applicant can perform the task independently and correctly. (The above pdf document shows the 300+ tasks condensed into 52 categories).

You may have as many people as necessary sign off on the Checklist showing that you have completed the tasks. You must also go through hands-on training to complete the checklist, for example:

- Actual death scene field work experience including body evaluation at the death scene and producing appropriately documented reports of death
- Autopsy lab including body evaluation and drawing specimens
- Role-play (creating scenarios that address training issues including mock scenes, etc.)
- Other forensic lab work involving anthropology, odontology, postmortem evaluation, medical record review, etc.

(NOTE: It is understood that some jurisdictions do not perform certain identified tasks due to statute, policy or procedure. However, that does not preclude an applicant from receiving appropriate training in that area. If such issues arise, the applicant is encouraged to contact ABMDI for direction to determine how to best satisfy those specific requirements.)

When the entire Checklist is completed at an independent level, the back cover should be notarized and returned to the ABMDI office for processing.

Registry Examination

The scope of knowledge for the Registry exam is defined in the National Institutes of Justice publication *Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator* and further defined in the Performance Training Guidebook Checklist. For an online practice test, you can visit [Occupational Research and Assessment](#).

The 240 multiple choice examination covers factual knowledge, technical information, understanding the principles and problem-solving abilities related to the profession. Exams are offered online. There is an additional fee for paper/pencil format. The examination is divided into eight sections as outlined in the Checklist and in the *Medicolegal Death Investigator* training text (Clark, Ernst, Jentzen, and Haglund, 1994). This text may be purchased from [Occupational Research and Assessment](#). Examinations are administered at local colleges, universities or approved testing centers through their testing departments. You have up to four hours to complete all eight multiple choice sections, which are:

1. Interacting with Federal, State and Local Agencies
2. Communicating
3. Interacting with Families
4. Investigating Deaths
5. Identifying and Preserving Evidence
6. Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities
7. Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge
8. Coping with Job-Related Stress

Successful Completion of the Registry Examination

Once you have passed the Registry examination, you become a Diplomate of the ABMDI (D-ABMDI). Certificants are issued a certification number that potential employers can ask for verification of certification.

Registry Recertification

In order to continue with certification, the Diplomate must:

1. Be considered in good standing (current in all fees)
2. Demonstrate continued competency (completed work verification form or see below)
3. Reaffirm the Code of Ethics in writing
4. Provide documentation of 45 hours of *approved* continuing education in the continuing education folder provided upon successful completion of passing the exam

The ABMDI is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB), which requires proof of continued competency in order to be recertified. Continued competency can be demonstrated by current employment or by examination. The recertification examination will be required if you are not currently working for a medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction or equivalent federal authority with the responsibility of investigating deaths.

Registry Certification Fees

- Non-refundable Application Fee: **\$50**
- Non-refundable online Examination Fee: **\$350**
- *Paper/pencil format of exam: **\$50** additional fee
- After certification, yearly maintenance fee: **\$50**

The ABMDI accepts Master Card, Visa, American Express, money orders and personal checks. Fees must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Note: There is an 18 month time limit to complete the application process and sit for the exam. There is a "wait-time" of 30 days between test and retest.

The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators complies with federal and state disability laws and makes reasonable accommodations for applicants with documented disabilities.



Garfield County Coroner's Office

Robert M. Glassmire
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21 certification upon just cause shown. The Colorado peace officers
22 standards and training board shall issue written findings of fact
23 supporting such an extension."

** ** ** ** **



[Login](#) [Online Testing Login](#)

Apply Online
ABMDI Home
Death Investigation Guidelines
Registry Certification (basic)
Application Process
Performance Training Guidebook Checklist
Registry Examination
Registry Certification Fees
Board Certification (advanced)
Bylaws
Policy and Procedures
Registry Diplomates
Board Certified Fellows
Certificant Directory
Retired Certificant Directory
Board Members
Advisory Council
Continuing Education Opportunities
FAQ
Change of Information Form
Reference Material
Recertification
Job Opportunities
Contact Us
Site Map

Registry Certification (basic)

The Registry certification is the initial certification that provides official recognition that an individual has acquired basic knowledge and demonstrated proficiency in the standards of practice necessary to properly conduct a competent, thorough medicolegal death investigation.

Eligibility

1. Must be at least eighteen years of age at time of application.
2. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
3. Must currently be employed by a Medical Examiner/Coroner jurisdiction or equivalent federal authority and have the experience and responsibility to independently conduct medicolegal death scene investigations or supervise such investigations at time of application and examination.
 - i. For applicants to "independently conduct a medicolegal death scene investigation," as referenced above, refers to the death investigator performing death scene investigations in person on location at the death scene. This includes but is not limited to completing a body examination (e.g., document injuries and personally assess postmortem changes), photographing the scene, completing an investigative report, etc.
 - ii. For applicants to "supervise such investigations" means that the applicant must have prior experience independently conducting medicolegal death scene investigations, as referenced in this document.
 - iii. Applicants in reserve positions would not qualify as being currently employed as defined above unless they are currently activated.
4. Applicants shall have experience as a Medicolegal Death Investigator.
5. 640 points are required and the activity must have been completed within five years of the date of application submission.
 1. Employment Experience (Minimum 384 points required, may be used for all 640 points.)
 - Full or part time employment
 - One (1) hour is equivalent to one (1) point.
 - On call employment
 - Each on-call hour = 0.25 points (Maximum 100 points)
 - Investigation of a natural death, no scene investigation = 1 point
 - Investigation of non-natural death, no scene investigation = 2.5 points
 - Investigation of a death with scene investigation = 5 points
 - Secondary investigator or intern at the scene = 2.5 points (Maximum 100 points)

If I do not have the full 640 points in employment experience I will use the following categories for points:

2. Advanced Degree
3. Education/Training
4. Viewing Forensic Autopsies

DISCLAIMER: Currently, the ABMDI does not endorse any program that claims to fulfill the requirements of certification or prepare an individual for the certification exam.

Application Process

Applications are available upon receipt of an [application request form](#). The \$50 non-refundable application fee must accompany the request form.

Included in the Registry application packet:

1. Application Form (Code of Ethics included)
2. Employment Verification Form verifying 640 hours of work experience and current employment in a Medical Examiner/Coroner office or equivalent federal authority with the primary responsibility of death investigation (requires notarization). *this requirement applies to application and examination
3. Professional Reference form
4. Performance Training Guidebook Checklist with ABMDI instructions (see below for more details).

In order to be eligible to sit for the Registry exam, the individual must complete the application packet in its entirety. *Note: Applicants who begin the process within one jurisdiction and subsequently move to another, must provide a notarized employment verification form from each jurisdiction indicating the length of employment.*

Application materials must be completed in their entirety and returned to the ABMDI office at least 30 days prior to the desired examination date.

There is an 18 month time limit to complete the application process and sit for the exam. If, after 18 months, you have not completed all application requirements or tested, your file will become inactive and your application fee will be forfeited. You will be required to reapply and pay the current application fee in order to start the process again.

Performance Training Guidebook Checklist

[Copy of Registry Performance Training Checklist in Acrobat Reader](#) -- **This is only a copy and should not be sent in with other application materials.**

Medicolegal Death Investigators have standards of practice that require performance of specialized, technical skills, e.g., initial body examination at the scene, drawing postmortem specimens for analysis, etc. There are many specialized procedures that are fundamental and are necessary to perform a thorough medicolegal death investigation. Proof that an individual is experienced in correctly performing these tasks is required to show his/her competency. Successful performance of all 300+ tasks identified in the Checklist must be verified in writing by a competent practitioner working in the field who has personal

knowledge that the applicant can perform the task independently and correctly. (The above pdf document shows the 300+ tasks condensed into 52 categories).

You may have as many people as necessary sign off on the Checklist showing that you have completed the tasks. You must also go through hands-on training to complete the checklist, for example:

- Actual death scene field work experience including body evaluation at the death scene and producing appropriately documented reports of death
- Autopsy lab including body evaluation and drawing specimens
- Role-play (creating scenarios that address training issues including mock scenes, etc.)
- Other forensic lab work involving anthropology, odontology, postmortem evaluation, medical record review, etc.

(NOTE: It is understood that some jurisdictions do not perform certain identified tasks due to statute, policy or procedure. However, that does not preclude an applicant from receiving appropriate training in that area. If such issues arise, the applicant is encouraged to contact ABMDI for direction to determine how to best satisfy those specific requirements.)

When the entire Checklist is completed at an independent level, the back cover should be notarized and returned to the ABMDI office for processing.

Registry Examination

The scope of knowledge for the Registry exam is defined in the National Institutes of Justice publication *Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator* and further defined in the Performance Training Guidebook Checklist. For an online practice test, you can visit [Occupational Research and Assessment](#).

The 240 multiple choice examination covers factual knowledge, technical information, understanding the principles and problem-solving abilities related to the profession. Exams are offered online. There is an additional fee for paper/pencil format. The examination is divided into eight sections as outlined in the Checklist and in the *Medicolegal Death Investigator* training text (Clark, Ernst, Jentzen, and Haglund, 1994). This text may be purchased from [Occupational Research and Assessment](#). Examinations are administered at local colleges, universities or approved testing centers through their testing departments. You have up to four hours to complete all eight multiple choice sections, which are:

1. Interacting with Federal, State and Local Agencies
2. Communicating
3. Interacting with Families
4. Investigating Deaths
5. Identifying and Preserving Evidence
6. Maintaining Ethical and Legal Responsibilities
7. Demonstrating Scientific Knowledge
8. Coping with Job-Related Stress

Successful Completion of the Registry Examination

Once you have passed the Registry examination, you become a Diplomate of the ABMDI (D-ABMDI). Certificants are issued a certification number that potential employers can ask for verification of certification.

Registry Recertification

In order to continue with certification, the Diplomate must:

1. Be considered in good standing (current in all fees)
2. Demonstrate continued competency (completed work verification form or see below)
3. Reaffirm the Code of Ethics in writing
4. Provide documentation of 45 hours of *approved* continuing education in the continuing education folder provided upon successful completion of passing the exam

The ABMDI is accredited by the Forensic Specialties Accreditation Board (FSAB), which requires proof of continued competency in order to be recertified. Continued competency can be demonstrated by current employment or by examination. The recertification examination will be required if you are not currently working for a medical examiner/coroner jurisdiction or equivalent federal authority with the responsibility of investigating deaths.

Registry Certification Fees

- Non-refundable Application Fee: **\$50**
- Non-refundable online Examination Fee: **\$350**
- *Paper/pencil format of exam: **\$50** additional fee
- After certification, yearly maintenance fee: **\$50**

The ABMDI accepts Master Card, Visa, American Express, money orders and personal checks. Fees must be paid in U.S. dollars.

Note: There is an 18 month time limit to complete the application process and sit for the exam. There is a "wait-time" of 30 days between test and retest.

The American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators complies with federal and state disability laws and makes reasonable accommodations for applicants with documented disabilities.



Lake County Government
Board of County Commissioners

505 Harrison Avenue • PO Box 964 • Leadville, Colorado 80461 • (719) 486-4101

Date: January 6, 2023

House Committee on Transportation, Housing, and Local Government:

I am writing on behalf of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners to express strong support for SB24-002. The authority granted to local jurisdictions under this bill would allow Lake County to provide targeted property tax relief in a manner aligned with our affordable housing goals.

Lake County residents faced a roughly 60 percent increase in valuations this last year, and home prices have more than doubled in recent years. According to the Bell Policy Center our long-term renters have the highest housing cost burden in the state. Similarly, the gap between median income and median house prices makes home ownership unattainable for most of our community.

In the face of this, Lake County took significant action for the 2024 tax year. We lowered our county mills by 10 percent; however, this is a blunt tool and highly regressive in its targeting. We also allocated over one mill of revenue to a range of rental assistance and assistance to homeowners facing financial distress, run through a respected local non-profit that implemented a similar nationally-recognized assistance program during COVID. While we value the non-profit partnership, this approach is inherently administratively burdensome. A direct, tailored property tax credit could be much more efficient to implement and achieve greater uptake with targeted recipients.

The housing crisis in our “rural resort” county feels existential. SB24-002 would allow us to better align local property taxes with our community affordable housing goals. We strongly urge you to move this bill through committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Fiedler", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jeff Fiedler
Chair, Lake County Board of County Commissioners