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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1615**

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 3, 2017

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-282 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Chief Medical Examiner; appointment, terms, and authority of medical examiners.*

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Patron—Tyler

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Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 32.1-282 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 32.1-282. Medical examiners.**

A. The Chief Medical Examiner ~~shall~~ *may* appoint for each county and city one or more medical examiners, who shall be licensed as a doctor of medicine or osteopathic medicine, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner in the Commonwealth and appointed as agents of the Commonwealth, to assist the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner with medicolegal death investigations. A physician assistant appointed as a medical examiner shall have a practice agreement with and be under the continuous supervision of a physician medical examiner in accordance with § 54.1-2952. A nurse practitioner appointed as a medical examiner shall have a practice agreement with and practice in collaboration with a physician medical examiner in accordance with § 54.1-2957.

B. *At the request of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, or their designees, medical examiners may assist the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner with cases requiring medicolegal death investigations in accordance with § 32.1-283.*

~~Each~~ C. *The term of each medical examiner appointed pursuant to subsection A, other than an appointment to fill a vacancy, shall take office begin on the first day of October of the year of appointment. The term of each medical examiner so appointed shall be three years; however, an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term.*

~~C. The Chief Medical Examiner shall fill any medical examiner vacancy for the unexpired term and shall make any necessary temporary appointments.~~

INTRODUCED

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