

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue  
**From:** Secretary Kerry Harvey, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet  
**Date:** July 1, 2022  
**RE:** 2021 RS HB 192 Northern Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office

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22 RS HB 1 continued the appropriation for Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC), Office of the State Medical Examiner, to establish, staff, and operate a Northern Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office, and authorized JPSC to establish a lease in SFY23 for a new location. These appropriations originally appeared in 21 RS HB 192 and HB 382, and total \$3.9 million, including \$1.8 million of one-time funding to procure necessary equipment. 22 RS HB 1 also included increased funding to provide competitive salaries for staff in the Northern Kentucky area, and additional staff to manage the overall workload of the Office of the State Medical Examiner.

JPSC will lapse all \$3.9 million appropriated for the purpose of establishing and operating the office at the close of SFY22. JPSC has submitted a request to the Personnel Cabinet for approval of proposed salaries and additional positions, using the funding from 22 RS HB 1. The proposal included a comparison of salaries for Pathologists and Autopsy Techs within Kentucky and surrounding states. JPSC is working closely with the Finance and Administration Cabinet's Department for Facilities and Support Services to determine the best method for procurement of a leased space and the subsequent fit up required.

It is the intent of JPSC to establish and staff the office in SFY23 and fully leverage all funding available to the Office of the State Medical Examiner.