

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1269-01
Bill No.: HB 461
Subject: Funerals and Funeral Directors; Cemeteries
Type: Original
Date: January 25, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal authorizes the next-of-kin of a deceased person to delegate control of the final disposition of the remains.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Revenue Fund	(\$52,457) to (\$112,204)	\$0 to (\$80,631)	\$0 to (\$81,312)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$52,457) to (\$112,204)	\$0 to (\$80,631)	\$0 to (\$81,312)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 6 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Revenue	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE	0 or 1 FTE

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Section 193.145

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** assume the proposed legislation allows the funeral director or person in charge of final disposition of the dead body to obtain or verify and enter into the electronic death registration system the medical certification and attestation, if designated to do so from the person responsible for such certification and attestation as designated under section 193.145.5, RSMo. The current electronic system used to register death certificates, MoEVR, is currently set up to only allow physicians, medical examiners, or coroners the ability to certify the medical portion of the death certificate; specifically being able to certify the cause of death. The proposed legislation would require the MoEVR system be modified to allow a person designated by the physician, medical examiner, or coroner to obtain or verify and enter into the system the medical certification information and attestation of that information for a death certificate.

OA-ITSD services will be required at a cost of **\$52,457**;

- \$6,885 (91.80 hours x \$75 per hour) of IT Consultant
- \$45,572 for Project Assessment Quotation (PAQ) with vendor

Oversight notes ITSD assumes that every new IT project/system will be bid out because all their resources are at full capacity. For this bill, ITSD assumes they will contract out the programming changes need to the MoEVR system. ITSD estimates the project would take 91.8 hours at a contract rate of \$75 per hour plus \$45,572 for the Project Assessment Quotation for a total cost to the state of \$52,457. Oversight notes that an average salary for a current IT Specialist within ITSD is \$51,618, which totals roughly \$80,000 per year when fringe benefits are added.

Assuming that all ITSD resources are at full capacity, Oversight assumes ITSD may (instead of contracting out the programming) hire an additional IT Specialist to perform the work required from this bill. Therefore, Oversight will range the fiscal impact from the cost of contracting out the work (\$52,457) to (\$125,572) for hiring an additional FTE IT Specialist (roughly \$80,000) plus Project Assessment Quotation with vendor cost (\$45,572) in FY 2020.

Section 193.265.2

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)** state that currently, any record submitted through the local registrar to the state registrar that has not been filed, but found to have incomplete or missing documentation, is mailed back to the funeral home director. Under the proposed legislation, the record would be mailed to the local registrar.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

There is an assumption that the number of records and the mailing costs would remain the same. This will have no fiscal impact to their department.

Officials from the **Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration**, the **Office of the State Courts Administrator**, the **Department of Public Safety - Missouri Highway Patrol**, the **Office of the State Treasurer, Kansas City** and the **City of Columbia** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight notes that the above mentioned agencies have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other cities were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. For a general listing of political subdivisions included in our database, please refer to www.legislativeoversight.mo.gov.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost - DHSS - OA-ITSD costs (ranged from contracting out programming to hiring additional FTE IT Specialist)</u>	(\$52,457) to <u>(\$112,204)</u>	\$0 to <u>(\$80,631)</u>	\$0 to <u>(\$81,312)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	(\$52,457) to <u>(\$112,204)</u>	\$0 to <u>(\$80,631)</u>	\$0 to <u>(\$81,312)</u>
<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill modifies provisions regarding the death registration process and the right of sepulcher.

The bill repeals a provision allowing the State Registrar to adopt pilot programs or voluntary electronic death registration programs until an electronic death registration system is certified. An attestation from the medical provider who completed the medical certification shall also be entered into the electronic death registration system.

The bill repeals a provision requiring the Division of Community and Public Health within the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a working group for the purposes of evaluating the electronic vital records system and submit a report on findings to the General Assembly by January 1, 2016. If the State Registrar determines that information on a document or record submitted to a local registrar is incomplete, the State Registrar shall return the records or documents with the incomplete information to the local registrar for correction by the data provider, funeral director, or person in charge of the final disposition.

Currently, a list is provided, in the order of priority, of those who have the right to control the disposition of a dead human body, known as the next-of-kin. This bill provides that the surviving spouse shall not be considered as next-of-kin if an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed. The next-of-kin of a deceased person may delegate the final disposition of the deceased to an agent through a power of attorney.

This bill provides that an individual with a superior claim to the disposition of the deceased may be notified in person or by written notice with delivery confirmation, rather than personally served with written notice by a person with an inferior claim who has the desire to exercise the right to control the final disposition of the deceased.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Public Safety
 Missouri Highway Patrol
Office of the State Treasurer
Kansas City
City of Columbia



Kyle Rieman
Director
January 25, 2019

Ross Strope
Assistant Director
January 25, 2019