

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. G. Smith
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do pass as Amended and Be Printed A-Engrossed

Vote: 14 – 6 – 2

House

Yeas: Buckley, D. Edwards, Jenson, Komp, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays: Garrard, Gilman, Richardson

Exc: Galizio

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Johnson, Monroe, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Girod, Nelson, Whitsett

Exc: Carter

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: April 10, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Current law states that the Department of Human Services (DHS) shall collect a filing fee of \$7 for the issuance of a death certificate. Of that fee, \$2 is deposited to the Public Health Account's Indigent Burial Fund for the disposition of indigent bodies, and \$5 is transferred to the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board for expenditures related to operations of the Board. This measure increases the filing fee for a death certificate to \$20. Of that fee, \$6 goes to DHS and \$14 goes to the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of death certificate fees
- Amount of proposed fee increase
- Necessity of proposed fee increase

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds an emergency clause to the measure, making it effective July 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND: The death certificate filing fee of \$5 was established during the 1985 legislative session in SB 876 to fund the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board. In 1993, the fee was increased from \$5 to \$7, with the additional \$2 in revenue for the indigent burial fund administered by the Department of Human Services. The fee has not been increased since 1993, while costs to regulate the State's mortuaries and cemeteries, as well as costs related to the disposition of bodies of indigent persons, have continued to increase.