



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number: S. 0176 As signed by the Governor on June 8, 2015
 Author: Alexander
 Requestor: Senate Medical Affairs
 Date: June 15, 2015
 Subject: Cremation
 RFA Analyst(s): Stein

Estimate of Fiscal Impact

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
State Expenditure		
General Fund	\$0	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Full-Time Equivalent Position(s)	0.00	0.00
State Revenue		
General Fund	N/A	N/A
Other and Federal	N/A	N/A
Local Expenditure	N/A	N/A
Local Revenue	N/A	N/A

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds. As the amended bill authorizes the Department of Health and Environmental Control to retain administrative penalties, there may be an expenditure impact on Other Funds.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Explanation of Amended Bill (June 3, 2015) – by House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee

State Expenditure

Senate Bill 176, as amended, amends Section 44-63-74 by requiring death certificates to be electronically filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics within five days after death. Medical certifications of cause of death must be completed by the patient’s physician and returned to the funeral home director within forty-eight hours after death. The bill provides for exceptions due to specified unavoidable delays in obtaining information and specifies administrative penalties for failure to meet deadlines. The amendment authorizes the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to retain these administrative penalties for use by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. The bill amends Section 32-8-325 to authorize cremation after an abstract of information from a filed death certificate posted on the electronic vital records system or a certified copy of the death certificate has been received by a crematory. The amendment allows a physician, coroner or medical examiner to sign the death certificate in lieu of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics’ signature during periods when DHEC is not open to the public, but requires the Registrar to file a signed copy by the next working day and to transmit a certified copy to the

crematory. An amendment to Section 32-8-340 allows human remains to be cremated after twenty-four hours have elapsed from the time of death as indicated on a death certificate or an abstract of information from a filed death certificate posted on the electronic vital records system.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund or Federal Funds. To whatever degree administrative penalties, if any, are assessed against violators, there may be an expenditure impact on Other Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure & Revenue

N/A

Explanation of Bill Pre-filed December 10, 2014

State Expenditure

Senate Bill 176 amends Section 44-63-74 by requiring death certificates to be electronically filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics within three days after death. Medical certifications of cause of death must be completed by the patient's physician and returned to the funeral home director within forty-eight hours after death. The bill provides for exceptions and penalties for failure to meet deadlines. The bill amends Section 32-8-325 to authorize cremation after a death certificate abstract posted on the death certificate electronic filing system has been received by a crematory. An amendment to Section 32-8-340 allows human remains to be cremated after twenty-four hours have elapsed from the time of death as indicated on a death certificate abstract posted on the death certificate electronic filing system.


The Department of Health and Environmental Control indicates that this bill would have no expenditure impact on the General Fund, Federal Funds, or Other Funds.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure & Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director