



maximum award amount to \$5,000. The latest figures from the Federated Funeral Directors of America indicate that an average funeral in Ohio costs \$4,114.35. Increasing the allowable award amount to double its current level would place an average funeral within the revised amount. Approximately only 1 in 5 eligible claimants file for an award through the Court of Claims. Potentially, the state could see an increase of \$1,500,000 appropriated annually from the state's reparations fund. Current levels would indicate an increase of approximately \$200,136 each fiscal year to cover the increased awards for funeral expenses. This increase does not have an adverse effect upon the program. In FY 96, Fund 402 had a surplus of nearly \$15 million. This program has no fiscal effect on local governments.

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