
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill states that if two county commissioners are absent and have filed physician's certificates, indicating that they will be absent due to sickness or injury, then the county coroner must serve as a county commissioner, in addition to carrying out the duties of the county coroner. The county coroner can request to be paid a per diem rate equal to the absent county commissioner's annual pay rate divided by the number of days in the year as compensation for carrying out the duties of county commissioner.

While county commissioners are out on a physician's certificate, they continue to be paid. Moreover, under the bill, the coroner would continue to receive the full coroner's salary and could request to receive a per diem rate for serving as commissioner. This means that counties would have to pay the absent commissioners and the county coroner. Therefore, counties could incur additional costs.

- In 1998, the additional cost per day could vary between about \$70 a day for the smallest counties to about \$181 per day for larger counties.
- In 1999 the cost could be between about \$74 and \$192 per day.
- For the year 2000 it could be between \$77 and \$199 dollars per day.

After forty days the commissioner's office would be deemed vacant. Once a vacancy is declared, the county commissioner who had held the office would cease to be compensated. Therefore the maximum possible cost to counties in 1998, under the bill, could be between \$2,800 and \$7,240, depending on the size of the county. In 1999, the additional maximum cost possible could be between \$2,960 and \$7,680. In 2000, it could be between \$3,080 and \$7,960.

□ *LBO staff: Alexander C. Heckman, Budget/Policy Analyst*

\\\$NDS\ISIS_VOL1.lbo\FN122\SB0208SR.DOC