

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	FY 2007	FY 2008	FUTURE YEARS
Townships and Municipalities			
Revenues	Potential gain	Potential gain	Potential gain
Expenditures	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase	Potential minimal increase
Local Boards of Health			
Revenues	Potential gain	Potential gain	Potential gain
Expenditures	Potential increase likely offset by revenue gain	Potential increase likely offset by revenue gain	Potential increase likely offset by revenue gain
Government-owned Hospitals			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential increase	Potential increase	Potential increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- The bill provides that the product of human conception that suffers a fetal death is to be interred at a township cemetery, municipal cemetery, etc., in a family member's grave on the application of a parent with a fetal death certificate and burial permit. This could increase administrative and possibly maintenance costs to township and municipality cemeteries. However, it is possible that this provision could increase the number of cemetery plots purchased. It is also possible that municipal or township cemetery operators would charge for a second right of internment. Many operators charge for a second right for interring additional remains in the same grave. This could cause a gain in revenue. The amount would be dependent upon the number of additional plots purchased or the fees generated from the second right of internment as a result of the bill. However, according to the Department of Health, it is believed that some burial permits are currently granted for fetal deaths occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation.
- The bill provides that a parent may be issued a fetal death certificate for a fetal death occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation. As a result of this, local boards of health could see an increase in the number of fetal death certificates and burial permits requested. According to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, the boards would charge a fee for the certificate and permit, which would offset any increases in administrative costs associated with the bill.
- The bill provides that if any woman presents herself at a hospital or a physician's office as a result of a fetal death, the hospital or physician is to provide the woman with the following information: (1) the right of either parent to apply for a fetal death certificate, and (2) the hospital or physician's procedures for disposing of the remains of fetal deaths occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation. According to the Ohio Hospital Association, this could increase costs to government-owned hospitals. The increase is expected to be minimal.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Burial permit and fetal death certificates

The bill provides that the product of human conception that suffers a fetal death is to be buried in a single grave within a township cemetery, municipal cemetery, or cemetery of a cemetery company or association that contains, or will contain, the remains of a parent, sibling, or grandparent. The burial is to occur at the request of the parent and if a burial permit has been issued.

The bill also requires, on the application of either parent, that a fetal death be registered on a fetal death certificate for a fetal death occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation. The bill requires the local registrar of vital statistics of the registration district in which the product of human conception suffers a fetal death prior to 20 weeks of gestation to issue a burial permit if either parent files a fetal death certificate with the registrar.

Fiscal effects

State

According to the Department of Health's web site, the definition of a "stillborn" is an infant who suffered a fetal death, showing no signs of life after delivery. The Ohio Revised Code, section 3705.23, authorizes the Department to issue one Certificate of Stillbirth to the parents that request it, free of charge. A fetal death certificate is required for the registration of any stillborn infant of at least 20 weeks of gestation. The bill requires, on the application of either parent, that a fetal death be registered on a fetal death certificate for a fetal death occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation. As a result of the provision, it is possible that there would be more requests for fetal death certificates. Therefore, administrative costs could increase for the Department. The cost would be dependent upon the number of fetal death certificates requested for fetal deaths occurring prior to 20 weeks of gestation. However, there would be a charge for the fetal death certificate that would likely offset most, if not all, administrative costs.

The Department of Commerce receives \$2.50 of every \$3.00 burial permit. The Department could realize an increase in revenues as a result of the bill. Any increase would be dependent upon the number of additional burial permits requested for fetal deaths occurring prior to 20 weeks of gestation. The Department anticipates this gain to be minimal. According to a Department of Health spokesperson, it is believed that some burial permits are currently granted to fetal deaths occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation.

Local

As a result of the bill, local boards of health could see an increase in the number of fetal death certificates and burial permits requested for those fetal deaths occurring prior to 20 weeks of gestation.

According to the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, the boards would charge a fee for the certificate and permit, which would offset any increases in administrative costs associated with the bill.

Townships and municipalities who own or operate cemeteries could be impacted by the bill. It is possible that there could be increased administrative and possibly maintenance duties associated with the provision that allows a product of human conception that suffers a fetal death to be buried in a single grave within a township cemetery, municipal cemetery, or cemetery of a cemetery company or association that contains, or will contain, the remains of a parent, sibling, or grandparent. It is possible that this provision could increase the number of cemetery plots purchased. It is also possible that municipal or township cemetery operators would charge for a second right of internment. Many operators charge for a second right for interring additional remains in the same grave. This could cause a gain in revenue. The amount would be dependent upon the number of additional plots purchased or the fees generated from the second right of internment as a result of the bill. However, according to a Department of Health spokesperson, it is believed that some burial permits are currently granted to fetal deaths occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation.

Notification

The bill provides that if any woman presents herself at a hospital or a physician's office as a result of a fetal death, or potential fetal death, the hospital or physician is to provide the woman with the following information: (1) the right of either parent to apply for a fetal death certificate, and (2) the hospital or physician's procedures for disposing of the remains of fetal deaths occurring prior to the 20th week of gestation. According to the Ohio Hospital Association, this could increase costs to government-owned hospitals. The increase is expected to be minimal as long as compliance would involve providing information regarding fetal death certificate procedures and notifying a woman of procedures for disposal.

Requirements for certain fetal deaths

The bill clarifies certain provisions that deal with reporting and certification requirements that are required under current law. These clarifications have no fiscal effect.

*LSC fiscal staff: Wendy Risner, Budget Analyst
Jason Phillips, Budget Analyst*

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