Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. H.B. 95 of the 130th G.A. **Date**: February 18, 2014

Status: As Passed by the Senate **Sponsor**: Rep. Hill

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Certificates recognizing stillborn infants and certified nurse-midwives provision of birth certificate information

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the Director of Health or State Registrar, on receipt of a written request signed by a parent who was previously issued a certificate that contained the word "stillborn" or "stillbirth" or any other words having similar meaning, to issue a certificate that meets the conditions in the bill. As a result, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) could realize a negligible increase in costs to issue certificates.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires that, when a burial permit is issued for a product of human conception of at least 20 weeks of gestation that suffers a fetal death, the local registrar must inform the parent or parents of the option to apply for a certificate. Local registrars, such as local health departments, may realize an increase in costs related to the notification.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Under current law, a certificate recognizing the delivery of a stillborn infant must be issued at no cost by the Director of Health or the State Registrar on receiving an application signed by either parent. Current law also requires the Director of Health to prescribe guidelines by rule for the form of the certificate and specifies that these guidelines are to require that the certificate contain at least the name, sex, date of delivery, and place of delivery. Under the bill, these guidelines are in the Revised Code instead of in rule. In addition, the bill specifies that the certificate shall not contain the word "stillborn" or "stillbirth" or any other words having the same or similar meaning. The bill also allows the Director to prescribe by rule any other standards regarding the form of the certificate. Beginning in August 2012, at the request of parents of stillborn infants, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) changed the format of the certificates it issues under current law. The heading previously stated "Certification of Stillbirth" but now states "Certification of Birth." Since it appears that the form does not currently refer to "stillbirth" or "stillborn," there should be no fiscal impact with the provision described above.

The bill requires the Director of Health or State Registrar, on receipt of a written request signed by a parent who was previously issued a certificate that contained the word "stillborn" or "stillbirth" or any other words having similar meaning, to issue a certificate that meets the conditions in the bill. As a result, ODH may realize an increase in administrative and mailing costs to issue certificates that meet the bill's conditions. The number of certificates reissued would likely be small, so any increase in costs would be negligible.

The bill requires that, when a burial permit is issued for a product of human conception of at least 20 weeks of gestation that suffers a fetal death, the local registrar must inform the parent or parents of the option to apply for a certificate. Local registrars, such as local health departments, may realize an increase in costs to notify parents of the option to apply for a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth. Costs would likely be minimal as long as the notification could be distributed along with the issued burial permit.

The bill also authorizes a certified nurse-midwife to provide the medical information and certify to the facts of a birth for a birth certificate. There should be no fiscal impact associated with this.

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