

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 1085 (Senator Conway)
Judicial Proceedings

Baltimore City - State's Attorney and Police Department - Sharing Cause of Death Determinations

This bill requires a representative from either the Baltimore City Police Department or the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City, within seven days after receiving a record of an examination of or autopsy on a body from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), to meet with the family of the decedent or a representative chosen by the family to share the cause of death determination. The State's Attorney's Office and the police department must consult with one another to determine which entity will meet with the family of the decedent.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Baltimore City can handle the bill's requirements using existing budgeted resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: OCME is the statewide agency designated by law to investigate deaths from injury, homicide, suicide, under unusual or suspicious circumstances, or when a person is not attended by a physician. If an autopsy is considered necessary and performed, the individual performing the autopsy must prepare detailed written findings during the progress of the autopsy. OCME must promptly deliver to the State's Attorney for the county where a body was found a copy of each record that relates to a death for

which the medical examiner considers further investigation advisable. A State's Attorney may obtain from OCME a copy of any record or other information that the State's Attorney considers necessary.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 20, 2014
ncs/lgc

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