

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 366 (Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)

(Task Force to Examine the State's Cemetery and Funeral Industry)

Environmental Matters

Referred to Economic and Environmental Affairs

Morticians Licenses

This enrolled bill requires an applicant for a mortician apprentice license to have completed two-thirds of the educational requirements of a mortuary science program at a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education or the State Board of Morticians. The bill reduces, from four to two, the maximum number of years an applicant for a mortician license may work as a mortician apprentice. The bill also reduces, from three to two, the number of times an apprentice license may be renewed.

The State or the board may take action to enjoin (1) the unauthorized practice of mortuary science; or (2) conduct that is subject to disciplinary action under existing law. The action must be brought in the county where the defendant resides or practices mortuary science.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund revenues for the board from license fees could increase by a potential indeterminate amount beginning in FY 1998. The bill's requirements could be handled with the existing resources of the board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

State Revenues: Currently, an apprentice license is renewable annually for \$150, while the application fee for a mortician license is \$300. Special fund revenues could increase by a potential indeterminate amount depending on the number of apprentices who would have

worked as an apprentice for three or four years, or who would have renewed their license a third time, but must now apply for a mortician license after two years.

Small Business Effect: There are approximately 250 funeral homes, most of which are small businesses and are assumed to offer pre-need contracts.

The bill requires the establishments that offer pre-need contracts to submit a certificate indicating compliance with the requirements for pre-need accounts to the board. If the certification requirement is similar to a certified review, the cost of the certificate for each establishment would range from approximately \$150 to \$1,000, depending upon the number of families served by the establishment. The certification requirement could be less stringent than a certified review, in which case, the cost to each establishment would be lower. This cost would be incurred each year.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Morticians), Department of Fiscal Services

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