

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 742 (Senator Derr)

Finance

Victims of Homicide - Transportation Expenses - State Budget

This bill provides that the State budget must include the necessary appropriations to pay for the transportation of homicide victims from the autopsy/examination site to a location within the State designated by the victim's family.

The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$33,200 in FY 2000. Future year expenditures reflect annualization and inflation. Revenues would not be affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	\$33,200	\$33,500	\$33,900	\$34,200	\$34,500
Net Effect	(\$33,200)	(\$33,500)	(\$33,900)	(\$34,200)	(\$34,500)

Note: () - decrease; GF - general funds; FF - federal funds; SF - special funds

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Fiscal Analysis

State Expenditures: Currently, after an autopsy/examination has been performed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) in Baltimore City, the family of the deceased is contacted to have the body transported. Arrangements are usually made with a licensed

funeral home to have the body transported to a location designated by the family. The cost of transporting the body generally becomes part of the funeral arrangement cost, which is not borne by the State.

As a result of this bill, general fund expenditures could increase by approximately \$33,195 in fiscal 2000. This estimate is based on 517 homicide deaths in Maryland in 1997, of which approximately 449 occurred in jurisdictions within minimal distance from OCME. The estimate assumes: (1) the body would be transported to a location close to the homicide site; (2) transportation costs would average \$55 per case for traveling within the minimal distance and \$125 per case for traveling to jurisdictions outside the minimal distance; (3) family members of each homicide victim would request transportation of the body; and (4) a July 1, 1999 effective date. Future year expenditures reflect an inflation factor of 1%.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Office of the Chief Medical Examiner), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 1998
Inc

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