

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 19 (Delegate Boschert)
Environmental Matters

Vital Statistics - Sharing Death Records With Other States

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt regulations that allow the sharing of death records with other states for the purpose of updating voter registration databases.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State law authorizes the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide copies of vital records to any person authorized by regulation. Pursuant to State regulation (COMAR 10.03.01.07L), the head of any governmental agency may obtain copies of death records if that information is needed to carry out the agency's duties.

Background: Currently, most state vital statistics agencies are party to an agreement that facilitates an interstate exchange system for vital records. The system allows states to send birth and death certificates or records for a non-resident individual in their jurisdiction to the state in which the individual resides. The standard interstate exchange agreement restricts the use of these exchanged records by the receiving vital statistics agency to internal purposes only. However, an addendum to the agreement allows states

to authorize the release of these records to additional state agencies for other purposes. The Vital Statistics Administration currently authorizes the release of death records under this interstate exchange agreement.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, HB 1236, was unfavorably reported from the House Environmental Matters Committee in the 2001 session.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 8, 2002
ncs/jr

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