

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 669

(Senator Dyson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government
Operations

Health - General - Anatomy Board - Powers and Duties

This bill repeals the authority of the State Anatomy Board to adopt regulations for the operation of a surgical study laboratory within the board's facilities and to adopt regulations to implement improved anatomical methods to further medical study.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: This bill would not materially affect State government operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: The anatomy board administers the State's body donor program and has jurisdiction over all unclaimed dead bodies in the State. No schools of medicine administer their own body donor programs. The anatomy board is housed within the University of Maryland School of Medicine. It does not have facilities of its own in which to operate a surgical study laboratory and it has not issued any regulations to operate one.

The board indicates that the embalming and preparation of dead bodies is a scientific process that does not lend itself to regulation. The means and methods by which a cadaver is embalmed and prepared, sanitized, and preserved to avoid public health risks

is substantial. Some factors that influence preparation include: (1) cause of death; (2) condition of the body (before and after death); (3) incidence of surgery; (4) presence and etiology of disease and infection; (5) intended medical use; (6) casting; (7) staining; and (8) protocols used to enhance study. Based on these methods, the board indicates that each body, body part, and specimen may have one or more methods applied using different chemicals and solutions at varying strengths to achieve the desired outcome of promoting medical science.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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