

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 119

(Senator Munson)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Deputy Medical Examiners - Investigative Fees**

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This bill alters the compensation for investigations performed by a deputy medical examiner (DME) from a range of \$60 to \$80 per case to a fee set in accordance with the State budget.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The proposed FY 2008 budget includes an \$80 fee per investigation for DMEs. Repealing the fee limit could increase expenditures in future years, depending on the fee set in accordance with the State budget.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Postmortem Examiners Commission within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) may appoint one or more deputy medical examiners for each county. This does not apply for Baltimore City. Deputy medical examiners must be a physician and may deputize another physician in the county to act as a deputy medical examiner. Each deputy medical examiner is entitled to a fee of at least \$60 and not more than \$80, as provided in the State budget, for each medical examiner's

case investigated. DHMH advises that the DHE investigation fee is currently set at \$80, the maximum amount allowed.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 7, 2007  
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