

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 900 (Delegates McKay and Kipke)
Health and Government Operations

Finance

Death Certificates - Fees - First Responders Killed in the Line of Duty

This bill prohibits the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and a local health department (LHD) from collecting a fee for a certified or abridged copy of a death certificate of a first responder killed in the line of duty if the copy is issued to a surviving spouse or child and will be used in connection with a claim for a dependent or beneficiary of the first responder.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill’s requirements can be handled with existing budgeted resources. General fund revenues decrease by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2023 from a reduction in fee revenues.

Local Effect: LHD revenues decrease by a minimal amount beginning in FY 2023. Expenditures are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Under the Health-General Article, a “first responder” means a firefighter, emergency medical technician, rescue squad member, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or sworn member of the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

The Division of Vital Records in MDH maintains a statewide system for registering, indexing, filing, and protecting all records of death occurring in Maryland. LHDs may also

process and issue a death certificate. Both MDH and LHDs may collect a fee for a certified or abridged death certificate.

MDH collects (1) a \$10 fee for the first copy of a certified or abridged death certificate issued in a single transaction and (2) a \$12 fee for each additional certified or abridged copy of a death certificate provided concurrently with an initial requested death certificate. The fees collected by MDH accrue to the general fund.

State Revenues: General fund revenues decrease by a minimal amount beginning in fiscal 2023 from a reduction in fee revenues.

Local Revenues: LHD revenues decrease by a minimal amount beginning in fiscal 2023 from a reduction in fee revenues.

Each LHD may set and collect fees for the issuance of death certificates. For example, the Anne Arundel County Health Department collects (1) an \$18 fee for the first copy of a certified or abridged death certificate and (2) a \$20 fee for each additional certified or abridged copy of a death certificate. The Prince George's County and Queen Anne's County health departments collect (1) a \$25 fee for the first copy of a certified or abridged death certificate and (2) a \$20 fee for each additional certified or abridged copy of a death certificate.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2022
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