

## Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB130-H1

House of Origin    ☐ Introduced    ☒ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
Second House       ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:**        Lewis

**3. Committee:** Health and Human Resources

**4. Title:**            **Death certificates made available at local health departments**

**5. Summary:** The substitute bill requires that, regardless of place of death, a death certificate can be filed at any local health department and the registrar shall forward the death certificate to the registrar of the district in which the death occurred.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:**

**Expenditure Impact:**

	<i>Dollars</i>		
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>NGF</i>	<i>Positions</i>
2008	-	-	0.0
2009	-	\$200,000	0.0
2010	-	\$200,000	0.0
2011	-	\$200,000	0.0
2012	-	\$200,000	0.0
2013	-	\$200,000	0.0

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of the bill is uncertain due to the following factors:

**Increase workload** – The Department of Health’s Division of Vital Records (DVR) does not yet have an electronic death registration system; therefore, it is necessary for the person filing a death certificate to hand deliver or mail the death certificate to the health district in which the death occurred. Death certificates are filed by the person (licensed funeral director, funeral service licensee, office of the state anatomical program, or next of kin) who first assumes custody of a dead body. A death certificate requires three numbers; registration area number, certificate number, and state file number. The registration area number identifies the place of death, the certificate number (assigned by the local health department) identifies the number of deaths that has occurred in that health district, and the state file number identifies the number of deaths that occurred in the Commonwealth and is assigned by DVR.

If this bill passes, it could increase the workload in those cases where the filing of a death certificate is done other than in the district that the death occurred. The deputy registrar, who is registering a death certificate that did not occur in their jurisdiction, will be required to call

the appropriate health district where the death occurred for the registration area number and the next available certificate number.

**Technology** – In order for the 119 local health departments to share certificate numbers real time, and to prevent the duplication of numbers, it would be necessary to develop a web based application. Without having written requirements, the estimated minimum cost of the application could be \$200,000. This estimate does not include the VITA charges that will be associated with this application. Funding for this would come from the agency's Virginia Vital Statistics Automation Fund.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Health

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** The Commonwealth CIO has granted planning approval for the development of an electronic death registration system. The electronic death registration system would allow local health departments to be granted access to death certificates in order to issue certified copies. The expected completion time of the electronic death registration system is sometime in FY 2010.

The previously issued fiscal impact statement indicated there would be a cost to the Virginia Department of Health in order for death certificates to be made available at local health departments; however, the estimated cost could not be determined.

**Date:** 1/22/2008 lrlj

**Document:** HB130H1.doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources