

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2011 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB 1661

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Alexander

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title:** Disposition of dead bodies; how expenses paid

**5. Summary:** Clarifies that, following any investigation or autopsy performed by the Medical Examiner, expenses for the disposition of a dead body shall be borne by a claimant who claims the body or, if the claimant is unable to pay the reasonable expenses of disposition, the county or city in which the deceased person resided, if a resident of Virginia at the time of death, or the county or city in which the death occurred, if the deceased person was not a resident of Virginia or the location of the deceased person's residence cannot reasonably be determined. If the body is unclaimed and the Commissioner of Health does not accept the body for scientific study, the body shall be accepted by the sheriff of the county or city in which the death occurred, and the costs of disposition shall be borne by the county or city in which the deceased person resided, if a resident of Virginia at the time of death, or the county or city in which the death occurred.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See Item #8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this legislation would affect the cities and counties that are required to pay for the cost of the disposition of the body as a result of the claimant not being able to afford the cost of the disposition or the Commissioner of Health refusing to accept the body for scientific study. The legislation would not have a fiscal impact for state agencies.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** No.

**Date:** 1/17/2011

**Document:** G:\VDH\GA\Legislation\FIS\FY 2011