

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 438

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

2. Patron: Northam**3. Committee:** Finance**4. Title:** Vital records; fees

- 5. Summary:** Provides that the Board of Health shall prescribe a fee of \$20.00 for a certified copy of a vital record or for a search of the files or records and may assess a fee of \$9.00, plus any costs associated with online identity verification and expedited mailing for any request for an expedited vital records search. This bill also provides that \$8.00 of each fee collected shall be deposited into the special funds of the Division of Vital Records, \$8.00 dollars into the special funds of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, \$2.00 dollars into the special funds of the Department to be used to fund health care services, and \$2.00 dollars into the Vital Statistics Automation Fund.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final.**Revenue Impact:**

	<i>Dollars</i>		
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>NGF</i>	<i>Positions</i>
2010	\$0	\$0	0.00
2011	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00
2012	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00
2013	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00
2014	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00
2015	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00
2016	\$0	\$2,500,000	0.00

- 7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. Language authorizing the standard vital records search fee increase from \$12.00 to \$20.00, along with the additional costs for online identity verification and expedited mailing is included in Item 283 (Vital Records and Health Statistics) in HB/SB 30.
- 8. Fiscal Implications:** Language in Chapter 781, 2009 Appropriation Act, overrides the Code of Virginia by listing the standard vital records search fee at \$12.00 and the expedited record search at \$48.00. The standard and expedited vital records search fees have increased over the past few years in order to cover the full costs of conducting the search and mailing the expedited record. As part of the Virginia Department of Health's reduction plan, the current

standard vital records search fee was increased from \$12.00 to \$20.00 (the \$8.00 increase is expected to generate an additional \$2.5 million annually).

Under the terms of an agreement between the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Vital Records (DVR) and VitalChek, approved in 1994, (and since automatically renewed) the requestor initiates the expedited transaction by contacting VitalChek. VitalChek obtains all the necessary information concerning the applicant and requestor, performs an online verification of identify, charges the requestor, and forwards the request to the DVR. The DVR processes the request and sends the certified vital record or a letter of "no record" to the requestor via first class mail or courier. DVR incurs additional costs for expedited records as it must have dedicated staff to assist VitalChek and meet the expedited time commitments to the requestor.

The language modification in HB/SB 30 and SB 438 will reduce the already considerable confusion regarding the costs for issuing an expedited record search, online identity verification and expedited mailing. The Virginia Department of Health believes that greater transparency and understanding can be achieved by stating only the portion of the fee it will receive, while alerting the citizens that there will be extra costs, which they can control, with an expedited vital record request.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: General fund appropriation in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will be supplanted with the \$2.5 million new revenue beginning in FY 2011.

Date: 2/1/2010 lrj

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