



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 583

January Session, 2011

House Bill No. 6393

House of Representatives, April 19, 2011

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. WIDLITZ of the 98th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT INCREASING THE FEE FOR A CREMATION CERTIFICATE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 19a-323 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2011*):

4 (b) If death occurred in this state, the death certificate required by
5 law shall be filed with the registrar of vital statistics for the town in
6 which such person died, if known, or, if not known, for the town in
7 which the body was found. The Chief Medical Examiner, Deputy Chief
8 Medical Examiner, associate medical examiner, or an authorized
9 assistant medical examiner shall complete the cremation certificate,
10 stating that such medical examiner has made inquiry into the cause
11 and manner of death and is of the opinion that no further examination
12 or judicial inquiry is necessary. The cremation certificate shall be
13 submitted to the registrar of vital statistics of the town in which such
14 person died, if known, or, if not known, of the town in which the body
15 was found, or with the registrar of vital statistics of the town in which

16 the funeral director having charge of the body is located. Upon receipt
17 of the cremation certificate, the registrar shall authorize such
18 certificate, keep such certificate on permanent record, and issue a
19 cremation permit, except that if the cremation certificate is submitted
20 to the registrar of the town where the funeral director is located, such
21 certificate shall be forwarded to the registrar of the town where the
22 person died to be kept on permanent record. If a cremation permit
23 must be obtained during the hours that the office of the local registrar
24 of the town where death occurred is closed, a subregistrar appointed to
25 serve such town may authorize such cremation permit upon receipt
26 and review of a properly completed cremation permit and cremation
27 certificate. A subregistrar who is licensed as a funeral director or
28 embalmer pursuant to chapter 385, or the employee or agent of such
29 funeral director or embalmer shall not issue a cremation permit to
30 himself or herself. A subregistrar shall forward the cremation
31 certificate to the local registrar of the town where death occurred, not
32 later than seven days after receiving such certificate. The estate of the
33 deceased person, if any, shall pay the sum of [forty] one hundred fifty
34 dollars for the issuance of the cremation certificate, [or an amount
35 equivalent to the compensation then being paid by the state to
36 authorized assistant medical examiners, if greater,] provided [,] the
37 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall not assess any fees for costs
38 that are associated with the cremation of a stillborn fetus. No
39 cremation certificate shall be required for a permit to cremate the
40 remains of bodies pursuant to section 19a-270a. When the cremation
41 certificate is submitted to a town other than that where the person
42 died, the registrar of vital statistics for such other town shall ascertain
43 from the original removal, transit and burial permit that the certificates
44 required by the state statutes have been received and recorded, that
45 the body has been prepared in accordance with the Public Health Code
46 and that the entry regarding the place of disposal is correct. Whenever
47 the registrar finds that the place of disposal is incorrect, the registrar
48 shall issue a corrected removal, transit and burial permit and, after
49 inscribing and recording the original permit in the manner prescribed
50 for sextons' reports under section 7-66, shall then immediately give

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	GF - Revenue Gain	600,000	600,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which increases the cremation certificate fee from \$100¹ to \$150, results in a General Fund revenue gain of approximately \$600,000 annually. In FY 10, \$1,260,200 was collected in cremation certificate fees and deposited into the General Fund as unrestricted revenue.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of cremation certificates produced by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

¹ Though the cremation certificate fee is established in CGS Sec. 19a-323 at \$40, the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations (which oversees the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner) allowed this fee to increase from \$40, to \$75, to \$100 to more accurately reflect the cost of external examinations. Before a body is cremated, CME must determine through external examination that the cause of death does not require further examination or judicial inquiry.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6393*****AN ACT INCREASING THE FEE FOR A CREMATION CERTIFICATE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the cremation certificate fee from \$40, or the amount the state pays to assistant medical examiners, if greater, to \$150. Currently, the state fee is set at \$100, so the actual increase is \$50. The \$100 fee is based on costs determined by the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations, which oversees the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

By law, cremation certificates are required for the cremation of a body for which a death certificate has been issued.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 16 Nay 10 (03/07/2011)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33 Nay 19 (04/07/2011)