

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5183

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEE FOR A CREMATION PERMIT.

Vote Date: 3/4/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/26/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill exempts the estate of a deceased minor from cremation-related fees, principally the \$150 cremation certificate fee.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Representative Craig Fishbein: Representative Fishbein testified that when the fee to issue a permit for cremation was first enacted, it was meant to compensate The Department of Public Health (DPH) for costs it once incurred to issue such permit. This is no longer the case. Instead, this fee has become just another revenue-generator for the state. He shared that the Governor's most recent budget proposal would raise this fee to \$175.00. This bill would eliminate the fee whenever a minor child is cremated, while leaving the fee structure in place for cremated adults. Representative Fishbein believes this is the compassionate thing to do for these families struggling with the death of a minor child. He strongly urges support for this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Suzanne Binelli: Sent in written testimony in strong support of this legislation. Losing a child is difficult enough. The cost of saying good bye to a loved one is already high enough. She urges passage of this bill.

Lori C. Sent in written testimony in support of this legislation.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Kathleen Panazza

Date: 3/10/20