



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 579

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6602

House of Representatives, April 13, 2023

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND FUNERAL HOMES.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public
2 Health shall provide all funeral directors licensed pursuant to chapter
3 385 of the general statutes, including such funeral directors who operate
4 out-of-state funeral homes or funeral service businesses, equal access to
5 the electronic death registry system.

6 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public Health shall
7 study whether to exempt licensed funeral directors who become owners
8 or part owners of a funeral home, funeral service business or other
9 establishment that is not engaged in the practice of embalming from the
10 requirement to employ a full-time licensed embalmer pursuant to the
11 provisions of section 20-221 of the general statutes. Not later than
12 February 1, 2024, the commissioner shall report, in accordance with
13 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of

14 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
15 health regarding such study.

16 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 20-222 of the general statutes is
17 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
18 *passage*):

19 (b) Upon receipt of an initial application for a funeral home license,
20 and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall make an
21 inspection of each building or part thereof wherein a funeral service
22 business is conducted or is intended to be conducted, and satisfactory
23 proof shall be furnished the Department of Public Health that the
24 building or part thereof, in which it is intended to conduct the funeral
25 service business, contains an adequate sanitary preparation room
26 equipped with tile, cement or composition flooring, necessary
27 ventilation, sink, and hot and cold running water, sewage facilities, and
28 such instruments and supplies for the preparing or embalming of dead
29 human bodies for burial, transportation or other disposition as the
30 Commissioner of Public Health, with advice and assistance from the
31 board, deems necessary and suitable for the conduct and maintenance
32 of such business.

33 Sec. 4. Subsection (b) of section 20-222a of the general statutes is
34 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
35 *passage*):

36 (b) Each funeral home license issued pursuant to the provisions of
37 this chapter shall be renewed on an annual basis, except for cause, by
38 the Department of Public Health upon payment to said department in
39 the amount of one hundred ninety dollars for each funeral home license
40 renewed. Fees for renewal of a funeral home license shall be given to the
41 Department of Public Health on or before July first in each year and the
42 renewal of the funeral home license shall begin on July first of each year
43 and be valid for one calendar year. The department shall complete an
44 inspection, not less than [triennially] annually, of each place of business
45 that has been issued a funeral home license.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	20-222(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	20-222a(b)

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Cost	154,574	158,330
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	64,313	65,921

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which increases the frequency of Department of Public Health (DPH) funeral home inspections from at least once every three years to once every year, among other provisions, results in a cost to the agency of approximately \$154,574 in FY 24 and \$158,330 in FY 25 and a cost for fringe benefits of approximately \$64,313 in FY 24 and \$65,291 in FY 25. One full-time Funeral Home Compliance Specialist is needed to help the existing Funeral Home Compliance Specialist to complete annual inspections of approximately 325 funeral homes and 21 crematories. One full-time Special Investigator is needed to investigate complaints received by the agency related to funeral directors, embalmers, and funeral homes. DPH will also require a state-issued fleet vehicle to conduct inspections at a cost of approximately \$4,380 annually.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6602

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND FUNERAL HOMES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner to give all state-licensed funeral directors, including those who operate out-of-state funeral homes or funeral businesses, equal access to the state’s electronic death registry system.

It also requires DPH to annually inspect each building or part of one where a funeral service business is conducted. Current law requires funeral homes to be inspected every three years. By law, DPH (1) must inspect these buildings when receiving an initial application for a funeral home license and (2) may inspect them at other times as it deems advisable.

Lastly, the bill requires the DPH commissioner to study whether to exempt funeral directors from the requirement to employ a full-time embalmer if they become owners (in full or part) of a funeral home, funeral service business, or other establishment not engaged in embalming. She must report on the study to the Public Health Committee by February 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/27/2023)