



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 298

PRINTERS NO. 1815

PRIME SPONSOR: Godshall

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2011/12	FY 2012/13
General Fund	Minimal (See "Fiscal Impact" Below)	

SUMMARY: House Bill 298 amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for autopsies. The effective date is 60 days after enactment.

ANALYSIS: The bill amends Title 20 by adding a new chapter (proposed as Chapter 89) to provide for confidentiality of autopsy audiovisual material. No autopsy audiovisual material may be prepared by anyone other than law enforcement personnel, unless they have written consent of the physician performing the autopsy, or the coroner or medical examiner authorized by law to perform or order the autopsy. Autopsy audiovisual materials include photographs, video recordings of the autopsy, and audio recordings of the autopsy. Physicians, coroners, medical examiners and their staff are prohibited from releasing any autopsy audiovisual materials except in certain specified circumstances.

FISCAL IMPACT: Reliable data do not exist to estimate how many people might be convicted and sentenced for violating the provisions of this legislation if it is enacted. However, given the limited number of people who have access to autopsy audiovisual materials to begin with, the number is expected to be minimal. The unauthorized preparation of autopsy audiovisual materials is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable by a maximum fine of \$5,000 and a maximum term of imprisonment of two years. The unauthorized release of autopsy audiovisual materials is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable by a maximum fine of \$10,000 and a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: November 2, 2011

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.