



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 973

PRINTERS NO. 1945

PRIME SPONSOR: Kula

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2010/11	FY 2011/12
General	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 973, Printer's Number 1945, amends the Vital Statistics Law by adding language stating funeral director or funeral establishments must determine if cremated remains in their possession are those of a veteran, and requires proper notification and release of remains to a veterans' service organization if unclaimed. This bill shall take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends the Vital Statistics Law (Act 66 of 1953) by adding definitions and a new section requiring a funeral director or funeral establishment, which has held in its possession cremated remains for more than 120 days from the date of cremation may determine if the cremated remains are those of a veteran, and, if so, shall dispose of the remains as provided in the new section. It further provides that the funeral director or funeral establishment shall not be prevented from sharing information with the United State Department of Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service agency, a veterans' service organization, a national cemetery, or a county veterans' cemetery for the purpose of determining whether the cremated remains are those of a veteran.

The bill provides for disposition and relinquishment of the cremated remains to either the next of kin or a veterans' service organization and for the method of disposition. When the estate of the decedent has been identified, the estate shall be responsible for reimbursing a funeral director, funeral establishment or veterans' service organization for all reasonable expenses incurred in relation to the final disposition of the cremated remains. It also releases funeral directors and funeral establishments from certain civil liabilities, and holds them harmless for any costs or damages except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth Funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 23, 2011

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