



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 297

PRINTERS NO. 1049

PRIME SPONSOR: Evankovich

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 297, Printer's Number 1049, creates the Release of Coroner and Medical Examiner Information Act and applies to the public release of information by a coroner or medical examiner. This legislation is effective in 60 days and is applicable in all 67 Commonwealth counties.

ANALYSIS: This bill prohibits a coroner or medical examiner from releasing information regarding the name of the deceased or the cause of death until either notification of the next of kin is confirmed or 72 hours have elapsed following the determination of the identity of the deceased or the cause and manner of death, whichever occurs first. A coroner or medical examiner may release to the public the name of the deceased and the cause of death at any time if they determine that the release is necessary to avert a public health emergency.

A coroner or medical examiner may release information as necessary to find the next of kin if the identity of the deceased or the next of kin is unknown, the information does not jeopardize an official investigation and the information is not privileged or confidential under Commonwealth laws or pursuant to a court order. The information to be released consists of the following: gender; race; age; date the deceased was found; sketch; and any other information deemed necessary.

A coroner or medical examiner who acts in good faith shall not be subject to criminal or civil liability arising from any action under this act, except for acts of gross negligence or recklessness.

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

PREPARED BY: Ann Bertolino
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: April 13, 2015

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