



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 1164

PRINTERS NO. 2006

PRIME SPONSOR: J. Ward

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	\$0	\$0

**SUMMARY:** Senate Bill 1164, Printer's Number 2006, amends the County Code (Act 130 of 1955) to further provide for coroner's investigation. This legislation is effective immediately.

**ANALYSIS:** SB 1164 amends section 1218-B (Coroner's investigation) of the County Code to remove the phrase "coroner having a view of the body" and to require that enumerated facts and circumstances of death that require a coroner's investigation under current law shall be reported by persons having actual knowledge of the death, including but not limited to, a health care facility, nursing home, personal care home or physician. The legislation adds clarifying language that a death known or suspected to be due to a contagious disease and constituting a public hazard includes any disease constituting a health disaster emergency or pandemic.

SB 1164 adds a new subsection 1218-B(d) regarding data to be made available to a coroner. Where it is determined by the coroner to be necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of the office, the Department of Health (DOH) shall provide electronic access to appropriate databases to the coroner for:

- Information reportable under the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955 for deaths known or suspected to be due to a contagious disease constituting a public health emergency or pandemic.
- Death certificates.

DOH may not charge a fee to the coroner for electronic access to data and may not require the coroner to obtain a subpoena. The coroner shall follow all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and confidentiality standards.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Senate Bill 1164 will have no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The requirement for DOH to release information to a coroner at no charge should be accommodated within existing available funding.

**PREPARED BY:** Ann Bertolino  
House Appropriations Committee (R)

**DATE:** October 21, 2020

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