

# SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

**BILL NO.** Senate Bill 361

**PRINTER'S NO.** 342

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General

**DATE INTRODUCED**

February 1, 2011

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Senator Robbins

**HISTORY OF BILL**

Referred to PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Feb. 1, 2011

Reported as committed, June 8, 2011

First consideration, June 8, 2011

Re-referred to APPROPRIATIONS, June 14, 2011

Re-reported as committed, Sept. 19, 2011

**DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL**

Senate Bill 361 amends the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to require the following:

- Birth records to be considered public records 100 years from the date of birth;
- Death records to be considered public records 50 years from the date of death; and,
- Require the State Archives to maintain the disclosed records.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The enactment of Senate Bill 361 will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth Funds.

The Historical Museum Commission presently has a license agreement with Ancestry.com to digitize and index records at no cost to the Commonwealth. Upon enactment, PHMC anticipates Ancestry.com would make digitization of the birth and death records a high priority. Upon digitization, the records would immediately become available to the public in the search room of the State Archives and to subscribers to Ancestry.com's services. After three years the records would also be made available on the PHMC web site.