



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4948 Introduced on February 8, 2022
Author: Rutherford
Subject: Autopsy Photographs
Requestor: House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Williams
Impact Date: February 28, 2022

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill allows coroners the discretion to release photographs, videos, or other visual images and audio recordings related to an autopsy to family members and personal representatives of the deceased. Currently, these photographs and videos can be viewed and disseminated to these individuals.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on county governments since it gives coroners the discretion to release certain autopsy information to family members. However, one county indicates that the bill could increase expenses for legal costs depending on the number of denied requests.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on February 8, 2022

State Expenditure

N/A

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill allows coroners the discretion to release photographs, videos, or other visual images and audio recordings related to an autopsy to parents of the deceased, surviving children, guardians, personal representatives, next of kin, and any other person given permission or authorization to view or possess the visual images by the personal representative of the deceased's estate. Currently, these photographs and videos can be viewed and disseminated to the individuals listed above.

The Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office surveyed all forty-six counties, as well as forty-four members of the South Carolina Coroner's Association to determine if this legislation would have an impact on county expenditures. We received responses from seven counties. Several of the responding counties report that expenditures resulting from this legislation could be managed within their current appropriations. One responding county indicates a potential cost savings

from the conservation of resources and operating expenses but could not quantify the savings. Operational expenses include processing fees, printing costs, and administrative costs. However, one county reports that there could be costs associated with legal expenses depending on the number of requests denied by coroners.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director