

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: SB 1426

SHORT TITLE: Increase Autopsy Fee

SPONSOR(S): Senator Rand

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes (X)	No ()	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 1998-99</u>	<u>FY 1999-00</u>	<u>FY 2000-01</u>	<u>FY 2001-02</u>	<u>FY 2002-03</u>
REVENUES					
Autopsy Fees Paid By Counties to the State	\$363,600	\$363,600	\$363,000	\$363,000	\$363,000
EXPENDITURES					
Autopsy Fee Costs to Counties	\$1,569,600	\$1,569,600	\$1,569,600	\$1,569,600	\$1,569,600
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:		Department of Health and Human Services			
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 1998					

BILL SUMMARY: This bill increases the fee for autopsies from four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to one thousand dollars (\$1,000), amending G.S. 130A-389.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY: According to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, there are approximately 3,570 medical examiner autopsies performed each year. This number is expected to remain constant. Of the medical examiner autopsies performed each year, approximately 2,010 are performed by private contracted pathologists, 1,260 are performed at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Chapel Hill, and 300 are performed at the Mecklenburg County Office. Payment for these autopsies is as follows:

402 paid by the state to private contracted pathologists

1,608 paid by the county to private contracted pathologists
 1,008 paid by the county to the state
+ 552 no payment, conducted by the state for the state
 3,570 TOTAL AUTOPSIES PERFORMED

Cost increase for State (Costs incurred by the State are offset by payments from the counties for autopsies performed by the State)

The difference in costs paid for autopsies by the state given a \$600 increase in the autopsy fee computes as follows:

402 x \$400 = \$160,800
- 402 x \$1,000 = \$402,000
 \$241,200 Increase in costs paid by the state to private contracted pathologists

Cost increase for Counties

The difference in costs paid for autopsies by the counties given a \$600 increase in the autopsy fee computes as follows:

1,608 x \$400 = \$643,200
+1,008 x \$400 = \$403,200
 \$1,046,400 Costs paid for autopsies by the counties with autopsy fee set at \$400

1,608 x \$1000 = \$1,608,000
+1,008 x \$1000 = \$1,008,000
 \$2,616,000 Costs paid for autopsies by the counties with a \$600 increase in the autopsy fee

\$2,616,000
- \$1,046,400
 \$1,569,600 TOTAL INCREASED COSTS TO THE 100 COUNTIES

Net Revenue to the State

The cost increase for the state of \$241,200 is offset by the autopsy fees paid to the state from the counties. The increased revenue to the state generated by a \$600 increase in the autopsy fee is \$604,800 = \$1,008,000- \$403,200. Thus, the net revenue increase to the state is \$363,600 = \$604,800 - 241,200.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

733-4910

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