

**Fiscal Estimate — 2001 Session**

- Original       Updated  
 Corrected       Supplemental

LRB Number • 1916/1	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number AB 107	Administrative Rule Number

Subject  
 Regulations for Cemeteries and Mausoleums

**Fiscal Effect**

State:  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

- Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.  
 Yes       No  
 Decrease Costs

Local:  No Local Government Costs

1.  Increase Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
3.  Increase Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

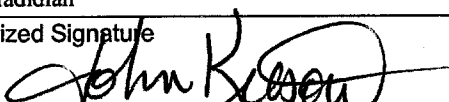
Fund Sources Affected  
 GPR       FED       PRO       PRS       SEG       SEG-S

Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

See Attached.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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Fiscal Estimate, AB 107

This bill makes changes in the regulation and licensing of cemeteries and mausoleums. The bill creates a cemetery management reserve fund by providing for a \$10 filing fee for death records and imposes a \$1 surcharge on copies of death certificates issued by state and local vital records offices. There are currently approximately 46,000 deaths per year in Wisconsin and no required filing fee. The proposed fee would apply to any individual required to file a certificate of death under s.69.19 (b) of the statutes, including institutional personnel who are required to dispose of unclaimed corpses. This could result in increased costs to the Department's institutions, which include the Mental Health Institutes, the Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, the Wisconsin Resource Center, and Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center. It is not possible to estimate the extent of these increased costs.

State computer applications will have to be revised as a result of this bill, at an estimated one-time cost of \$1000. It is anticipated that there will also be an increase in postage costs as requests for death certificates are returned to the requestor because they do not contain the correct fee. It is not possible to estimate this cost.

Both the state and local registrars may issue certified copies of death certificates, which are needed for legal and estate work. Local agencies currently issue most of the certified death certificates and copies and collect the fees for these certificates. The state issues between 2,000 and 2,500 certified death certificates annually. Some individuals avoid payment of a fee by getting an uncertified copy of the death certificate from a funeral director, even though this is not allowed in statute. This uncertified copy is not legally valid; however, some institutions may accept it. It is possible that, because of the \$1 surcharge, more people will avoid paying a fee by using an uncertified copy of the death certificate, rather than applying for a certified copy. As a result, the state and local agencies will see a reduction in fee revenue if the provisions of this bill are enacted. It is not known how many people will avoid the surcharge and it is, therefore, not possible to estimate the amount of revenue that will be lost to state and local agencies as a result of this bill.

It is possible that, if surcharges are attached to the filing of death records, medical certifiers will not file death records in an attempt to avoid these charges. If this occurs, death record data for the state will be inaccurate. Inaccurate reporting of death record data would affect the Department's ability to report accurate and complete statistical data on Wisconsin health issues. In addition, the Department currently receives approximately \$400,000 from the federal government in exchange for Wisconsin health information data. The submittal of inaccurate data would jeopardize the receipt of these federal funds.

The state and local agencies will be expected to collect the new fee and forward it and the surcharge to the State Treasurer's Office. This will be an additional state and local workload for which there is no compensation provided in this bill. It is not possible to estimate the cost of this workload.