

# FISCAL NOTE

June 8, 2021

<b>Bill No:</b>	House Bill 118	<b>Printer's No:</b>	1724	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rep. Frank Ryan (R)
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22
General Fund	"See Fiscal Impact"	"See Fiscal Impact"

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 118 is a freestanding act known as the Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act.

**ANALYSIS:** House Bill 118 requires a health care facility that possesses fetal remains to dispose of those remains via burial or cremation in accordance with Pennsylvania law.

Under this act, if a parent of the unborn child selects a location for the final disposition of fetal remains other than a location that is customary for a health care facility, the parent will be responsible for the costs.

This act further stipulates that the person in charge of interment is not required to designate a name for the unborn child on the burial or transit permit, nor shall the unborn child's parental identification be subject to public disclosure. Finally, this act prohibits the Department of Health (DOH) from being required to issue a certificate of birth for the unborn child.

This bill will take effect 60 days upon enactment.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The department anticipates a significant fiscal impact on their vital records operation, as the bill requires the Disposition/Transit Permit process to be rewritten and the change in fetal disposition definition would require establishment of a payment mechanism to compensate local registrars.

DOH believes this bill would require five new positions and subsequent infrastructure costs as follows:

COSTS/SAVINGS		FY 2021-22	Out-Years
<b>Personnel (salary+benefits):</b>			
(1)	Registry specialist supervisor	\$105,900.00	\$105,900.00
(2)	Registry specialists	\$190,100.00	\$190,100.00
(2)	Registry technicians	\$155,800.00	\$155,800.00
<b>Infrastructure:*</b>			
Consultant (project manager)		\$100,000.00	\$0
System modifications		\$150,000.00	\$0
Payments to local registrars (\$1/case)		\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Misc. operating expenses		\$9,300.00	\$9,300.00
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>\$746,100.00</b>	<b>\$496,100.00</b>

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*\* For purposes of illustrating cost estimates in the out-years, GBO assumes the consultant and system modification costs are one-time costs to the Department and the personnel and local registrar costs, and the misc. operating expenses would remain in subsequent years.*

*\*\* At this time, the total fiscal impact to the Pennsylvania Vital Statistics Law and Abortion Control Act have not been fully analyzed. Costs estimates have the potential to be much larger.*