



March 11, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the state and applicable local government to provide compensation to family members of persons who have died from COVID-19 who are unable to provide for a proper burial or cremation.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Up to \$300,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Up to \$300,000/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years\***

Assumptions:

- The proposed legislation establishes a maximum compensation of \$2,000 to be paid equally by the state and the county within which the deceased person resided.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Health, as of March 10, 2021
  - There are 786,597 confirmed and probable cases;
  - There have been 11,606 confirmed and probable deaths from COVID-19;
  - The number of active cases has dropped from 85,406 on December 21, 2020 to 13,886 on March 5, 2021; and
  - As of March 10, 2021, a total of 1,120,705 Tennesseans have received vaccine.
- Given the decline in active cases and increase in the number of vaccinations statewide, it is reasonably assumed that the number of deaths attributed to COVID-19 will continue to decline and eventually be comparable with the number of deaths occurring statewide due to the flu.
- Based on information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Health Statistics website, the following number of deaths in Tennessee were attributed to flu or pneumonia in the following years:
  - In 2019, there were 1,332 deaths;
  - In 2018, there were 1,646 deaths;
  - In 2017, there were 1,656 deaths;
  - In 2016, there were 1,533 deaths; and
  - In 2015, there were 1,723 deaths;
- It is reasonably estimated that at least 1,500 deaths will occur in Tennessee due to COVID-19 each year and that 20 percent, or 300 (1,500 x 20.0%), family members of the deceased will be unable to pay for a proper burial or cremation.

- The proposed language will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures up to \$300,000 (300 persons x \$1,000 maximum payment) beginning in FY21-22 and occurring each subsequent fiscal year.
- The proposed language is estimated to result in a recurring mandatory increase in local expenditures up \$300,000 (300 persons x \$1,000 maximum payment) beginning in FY21-22 and occurring each subsequent fiscal year.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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