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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 311
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 311's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. S. Huffman and Johnson

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The current deposition and testimony rate schedule for coroner expert testimony would be replaced with a static \$350 rate for services. A net gain in revenue may result from an increase in rate for deposition services and decrease in rate for testimony services.
- The bill shifts the cost of transporting a body for an autopsy from the county where the autopsy occurs to the originating county where the body was fatally injured. If the body comes from a Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or Department of Youth Services facility, then either of those entities would pay for the transportation costs.
- The cost to transport one body may range from \$150 to \$300 for shorter trips and \$400 to \$600 for longer trips between counties.

Detailed Analysis

Coroner fees for expert testimony

The bill replaces the deposition and testimony rates for coroner expert testimony with a \$350 blanket rate for these services. The rate for deposition services will increase and the rate for testimony services will decrease. The change in these rates will likely offset and result in a gain of revenue as more hours are billed for deposition services than testimony services. The deposition and testimony rates are based on hourly rates paid to county coroners without a private practice of medicine at the class 6 level according to current law pay scales, including annual raises of 1.75%, in effect through calendar year 2028. Deposition rates are paid based on the actual hourly rate. Testimonial fees are based on hourly rate multiplied by six. The table below displays the current and proposed fee schedules through calendar year 2028.

Coroner Hourly Fees For Expert Testimony: Current and Proposed			
Year	Deposition Rate	Testimony Rate	Proposed Service Rate
2022	\$73.40	\$440.41	--
2023	\$74.69	\$448.12	\$350.00
2024	\$75.99	\$455.96	\$350.00
2025	\$77.32	\$463.94	\$350.00
2026	\$78.68	\$472.06	\$350.00
2027	\$80.05	\$480.32	\$350.00
2028	\$81.45	\$488.72	\$350.00

Autopsy transportation cost

The bill adds the cost of transportation to the overall autopsy cost incurred by: (1) the county where the body was fatally injured, or (2) the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or Department of Youth Services when an individual who dies was an inmate of a state correctional facility. The county performing the autopsy incurs this cost under current law. The cost to transport one body may range from \$150 to \$300 for shorter trips, and \$400 to \$600 for longer trips between counties.

Physician completion of medical certificates of death

The bill may marginally decrease administrative costs to the coroner's office by requiring physicians to complete and sign the medical certificate of death for patients under standard care arrangements or supervision agreements. This change would alleviate existing delays that can occur under existing law when releasing a body to the deceased's family.