



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Genevieve Davison

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 61 of the 131st G.A. **Date:** June 29, 2015
Status: As Reported by House Health and Aging **Sponsor:** Sen. Hughes

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Limits to whom a death certificate containing the decedent's Social Security number may be issued in the first five years after the decedent's death

State Fiscal Highlights

- Minimal increased administrative costs for the Ohio Department of Health.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Minimal increased administrative costs for local registrars.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

This bill restricts who may receive a certified copy of a death certificate with the decedent's Social Security number within five years of the decedent's death. Officials responsible for maintaining vital records are prohibited from including the decedent's Social Security number on a certified copy of the decedent's death certificate for the first five years after the decedent's death, unless that information is specifically requested to be on the certified copy by one of the following who presents satisfactory proof to the official of the person's identity:

- The decedent's spouse.
- A county veterans service officer or an agent of such an officer.
- An official who is responsible for the burial or cremation of an indigent person as specified in section 9.15 of the Revised Code or an agent of such an official.
- A lineal descendant of the decedent.
- An individual with a class A or B license issued by the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety to engage in the business of private investigation.
- A local, state, or federal law enforcement official or prosecutor.
- An individual engaged in the work of, or connected with or employed by, any media organization or media association if the individual seeks the death certificate for

the purpose of gathering, procuring, compiling, editing, disseminating, or publishing news.

--The executor or administrator of the decedent's estate, or an attorney representing the executor or administrator.

--An agent of the decedent when the decedent had been the principal under a power of attorney created under law not modified by the bill.

--The adult, or any adult in a group of adults, serving as the representative or successor representative under a written declaration executed by the decedent.

--A licensed funeral director, or an employee or agent of that individual, who requests a certified copy of the death certificate on the behalf of a person specified above who is not a law enforcement official or prosecutor.

--Any person not listed above who is authorized by law to act on the behalf of the decedent or the decedent's estate.

This bill may result in minimal increases in staff and administrative costs for the Ohio Department of Health in order to verify, to its satisfaction, the identity of individuals requesting death certificates with the decedent's Social Security number and to remove Social Security numbers from death certificates if needed. This bill may also result in minimal increases in administrative costs for local registrars responsible for maintaining vital records in order to verify, to their satisfaction, the identity of individuals requesting death certificates with the decedent's Social Security number. It is likely that these minimal cost increases would be absorbed within existing Department of Health and local resources.