



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 146 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Householder

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Requires a court hearing for a coroner to change cause of death listed on a death record

The bill requires that a hearing in a court of common pleas be held if a coroner wishes to change a cause of death on a death record. Under current law, a coroner is permitted to change the cause of death once, with any subsequent changes requiring a hearing in a court of common pleas. Under the bill, *any* changes to a cause of death, or corrections, require a hearing to be held. Ultimately, the cost of this change in procedure would depend on the frequency in which cause of death revisions are necessary and hearings are required to be held.

LSC contacted several different county coroner offices to determine how often changes to cause of death reports are made. None of the county coroner offices or the Ohio State Coroners Association has tracked any such data, but all indicated to LSC that such changes are infrequent. This suggests that the number of hearings that would be held to consider requests by coroners to change the cause of death as required under the bill would be few in number. Consequently, while the change in procedure might increase the workload of certain courts of common pleas by a small degree, any resulting costs would presumably be absorbed within existing court budgets and considered as part of the daily cost of doing business.

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