

HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE -- ADMINISTRATION

Prohibit Assessment of County Fees to Funeral Homes, Cemeteries and Crematories in Cases  
Reimbursed under the WFCAP Program

[LFB Paper #369]

Motion:

Move to provide that a funeral home, cemetery or crematory is not required to pay the following fees in cases where the funeral home, cemetery or crematory requests and receives reimbursement under the Wisconsin funeral and cemetery aids program (WFCAP):

1. Fees for services rendered by a coroner under 59.36 of the statutes.
2. Fees assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner under 69.18(4) of the statutes.
3. Any transportation fees assessed by the county.

Specify that this provision would first apply to individuals who die on and after September 1, 2015, for whom reimbursement under WFCAP is provided.

In addition, prohibit a county from increasing any of the fees described under (1), (2) and (3) above after the bill's effective date, until two years after the bill's general effective date. Provide that after the two-year period is ended, counties may increase these fees by no more than the increase in the consumer price index for the previous calendar year.

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Note:

Under WFCAP, funeral homes, cemeteries, and crematories may receive reimbursement for costs of services they provide to indigent individuals, subject to statutory limits. The statutes require the state to pay: (a) the lesser of \$1,000 or the cemetery expenses that are not paid by the estate of the deceased or other persons, if the total cemetery expenses for the recipient do not exceed \$3,500; and (b) the lesser of \$1,500 or the funeral and burial expenses not paid by the state of the deceased or other persons, if the total funeral and burial expenses do not exceed \$4,500.

Under s. 50.36 and 69.18(4) of the statutes, counties assess coroner fees and death certificate signing fees, which may be paid by funeral homes, cemeteries and crematories. Generally, cremation release fees assessed by coroners range from \$50 to \$350, and, and death certificate