

FETAL DEATH AND STILLBIRTH RECORDS



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SENATE BILL 1323 AS PASSED THE SENATE

Sponsor: Sen. Loren Bennett

House Committee: Family and Children Services

FLOOR ANALYSIS - 9/17/02

Analyst(s): Susan Frey

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1323, as passed by the Senate, amends the Public Health Code to change the reporting of a fetal death as of June 1, 2003, from a form with no identifying data to a form prescribed by the state registrar of the Department of Community Health (DCH). After June 1, 2003, a fetal death report will be a permanent vital record with access the same as to a live birth record. The bill creates a certificate of stillbirth which includes identifying information of a fetal death, and also establishes that vital records are not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Fetal deaths totaled 787 in Michigan in the year 2000. The bill's fiscal impact to the state is the cost DCH will incur to revise the reporting formats, develop a certificate of stillbirth, publicize the changes to reporting entities, and incorporate the reporting of fetal death into its vital recordkeeping system.