

# Legislative Analysis



## NO FEE FOR RECORD OF STILLBIRTH

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 5289 (H-2) as reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Julie Alexander**  
**1st Committee: Families, Children and Seniors**  
**2nd Committee: Ways and Means**  
**Revised 4-22-20**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 5289 would amend the Public Health Code to prohibit the state registrar from charging a fee for a search and up to two certified copies or authenticated copies of a certificate or other record of stillbirth as described in the code.

Currently, the state registrar or a local registrar is required, upon receipt of a written request and payment of the prescribed fee, to search for and issue a record of stillbirth filed after June 1, 2003, to a parent named in the record or, by court order, to a court of competent jurisdiction. The base fee for a search including one certified copy, one administrative use copy, or one statistical use copy is \$34.

MCL 333.2891

### BACKGROUND:

2018 PA 589 amended the Income Tax Act to provide for an additional exemption in a tax year in which the taxpayer has a certificate of stillbirth from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The bill would eliminate the fee for obtaining such a certificate.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5289 has fiscal implications of up to \$20,400 for DHHS to provide a vital records certificate or other record of stillbirth to an eligible individual at no charge to the individual. In 2017, 605 fetal deaths that occurred in Michigan were designated as stillbirth.

### POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill:  
Department of Health and Human Services (2-25-20)  
Michigan Catholic Conference (2-25-20)  
Right to Life of Michigan (2-5-20)

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