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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Clahchischilliage ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/18
 LAST UPDATED 2/10/18 HB 96/aHCPAC

SHORT TITLE Increase Vital Records Fees SB _____

ANALYST Chenier

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY18	FY19	FY20		
	\$64.9	\$64.9	Recurring	General Fund
	\$213.7	\$213.7	Recurring	Day Care Fund
	\$1,506.2	\$1,506.2	Recurring	Vital Records Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Children Youth and Families Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HCPAC Amendment

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee (HCPAC) amendment to House Bill 96 would change the distribution of revenue from vital records fees. Thirty-three percent would be distributed into each of the vital records, general, and day-care funds. As shown in the table below:

Current and Proposed Distribution of Vital Records Fees (HCPAC Amendment)

	Current Distribution		Proposed Distribution		
	Portion of Revenue to Day Care Fund	Portion of Revenue to General Fund	Portion of Revenue to Day Care Fund	Portion of Revenue to Vital Records	Portion of Revenue to General Fund
Birth Certificate	60%	40%	33%	33%	33%
Death Certificate	20%	80%	33%	33%	33%
Fetal Death Certificate	0%	100%	33%	33%	33%
Revisions/Amendments	50%	50%	33%	33%	33%

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 96 would increase fees charged to search for vital records and add a fee for additional copies of these records. The bill would create a new vital records fund and change the distribution of fee revenue as shown in the tables below:

Current and Proposed Fees

	Current Fee for Service	Proposed Fee for Service	Proposed fee for Additional Copy
Birth Certificate	\$10	\$15	\$15
Death Certificate	\$5	\$10	\$10
Fetal Death Certificate	\$5	\$10	\$10
Revisions/Amendments	\$10	\$15	\$15

Source: DOH

Original Bill's Distribution of Vital Records Fees

	Current Distribution		Proposed Distribution		
	Portion of Revenue to Day Care Fund	Portion of Revenue to General Fund	Portion of Revenue to Day Care Fund	Portion of Revenue to Vital Records	Portion of Revenue to General Fund
Birth Certificate	60%	40%	30%	70%	0
Death Certificate	20%	80%	30%	70%	0
Fetal Death Certificate	0%	100%	30%	70%	0
Revisions/Amendments	50%	50%	30%	70%	0

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 includes a \$200 thousand increase in general fund revenue to the Department of Health for Vital Records and Health Statistics.

The table below shows changes in revenue given the HCPAC amendment:

Current Revenue to Day Care Fund	\$1,292.5
Current Revenue to General Fund	\$1,441.3
Total Current Revenue	\$2,733.8
Proposed Changes	
Proposed Revenue to Day Care Fund	\$1,506.2
Proposed Revenue to new Vital Records Fund	\$1,506.2
Proposed Revenue to General Fund	\$1,506.2
Total Proposed Revenue	\$4,518.6

CYFD said they regularly request copies of vital records for children who enter foster care if those records are not available from the family. Presuming an upward bound of 2,500 requests per year, the additional fiscal implication for CYFD will be \$12,500 (twelve thousand five hundred dollars). This impact will be absorbed by existing resources.

This bill creates a new fund and provides for continuing appropriations. The LFC has concerns with including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Department of Health provided the following:

- Fees for the issuance or correction of vital records documents have not increased in more than 29 years.
- The current vital records fees are among the lowest in the country.
- The number of vital records issued by DOH has more than doubled over the past year in compliance with the Real ID Driver’s License requirements.
- DOH has had to delay the hiring of staff due to lack of funding, which slows down customer service to the public.

The bill would positively impact the delivery of service to citizens of New Mexico because it would allow DOH Vital Records and Health Statistics Bureau to hire additional staff and enhance its technology and infrastructure to be able to effectively run the Bureau and effectively meet its federal requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

DOH recommended amending the bill to maintain a portion of distribution to the General Fund, and divide all revenues equally between the three funds (Day-Care Fund, Vital Records Fund, and General Fund). This would result in 33 percent to the Day-Care Fund, 33 percent to the Vital Records Fund, and the remainder to the General Fund.