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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Duran DATE TYPED: 02/08/01 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE: Funeral Service Practitioners SB 117/aSPAC
 ANALYST: Valdes

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Regulation and Licensing Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment exempts all licensees age sixty-five or above, who have been licensed at least twenty consecutive years under the Thanatopractice Act, from continuing education requirements.

Additionally, the amendment increases the grace period allowed in current statutes for license renewal, from thirty to sixty days. If the license is not renewed before the grace period ends, it will expire and become invalid.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 117 proposes to exempt funeral service practitioners sixty-five and older from continuing education requirements mandated by current statutes, if they have been licensed at least twenty consecutive years.

Significant Issues

The bill proposes the exemption for funeral service practitioners but does not exempt other licensees under the Thanatopractice Act, including associate funeral service practitioners, assistant funeral service practitioners, direct disposers and funeral service interns.

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Continuing education requirements are mandated by regulations adopted by the Thanatopractice Board and require 10 hours per year. Continuing education credits can be obtained by attending annual seminars conducted within the state, through correspondence courses or enrollment at schools offering these specific courses. They are reasonable accessible to all licensees statewide.

Continuing education requirements are mandatory for most boards and commissions within the Regulation and Licensing Department with very few exceptions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No administrative impact.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Thanatopractice Board staff recommended consideration of removing the age requirement and allowing the exemption of all license categories for those who have continually “practiced” a minimum of twenty consecutive years under the license type held.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Why should Thanatopractice Board licensees be exempted from continuing education if most other boards and commissions require continuing education as a condition of license renewal?
2. What is the purpose of this proposed change?
3. Is this change supported by the funeral service industry?

MFV/njw