



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4290/1
EVM:emw&ahe

2015 SENATE BILL 531

January 8, 2016 – Introduced by Senators COWLES and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives NYGREN, NOVAK, BALLWEG and LOUDENBECK. Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 49.785 (1r) (a), 59.36, 59.365 (1) (intro.), 59.365 (1) (a) and
2 59.365 (1) (c); and **to create** 59.365 (3) of the statutes; **relating to:** fees charged
3 for certain coroner or medical examiner services.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands a moratorium on fee increases for certain fees charged by a county for coroner or medical examiner services and creates an exception to this moratorium.

Under current law, from July 14, 2015, to April 17, 2017, a county may not charge a funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium an amount that exceeds the amount that was in effect on April 17, 2015, for any of the following fees: 1) fees for services rendered by a coroner; 2) fees assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner; or 3) fees assessed related to transportation services. If on or after April 18, 2017, a county increases the amount of any of the fees specified above, any increase may not exceed the annual percentage change in the U.S. consumer price index for all urban consumers, U.S. city average, for the 12 months ending on December 31 of the year before the increase.

Under this bill, the moratorium is expanded to cover a fee charged to any person by a county for the purposes specified above, and the purpose listed under item 1) above is expanded to cover fees for services rendered by a coroner or medical examiner. The bill also clarifies that fees for services rendered by a medical examiner may not exceed an amount that is reasonably related to the actual cost of providing the service.

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Also under this bill, with some exceptions, if a county that had been providing coroner or lay medical examiner services begins providing physician medical examiner services under an intergovernmental cooperation agreement, at the time that the agreement takes effect, the board may establish the fee assessed for the signing of a death certificate by a coroner or medical examiner at an amount that exceeds the amount that was in effect on April 17, 2015, and without regard to any changes in the U.S. consumer price index.

For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 49.785 (1r) (a) of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55,
2 is amended to read:

3 49.785 (1r) (a) Fees for services rendered by a coroner or medical examiner.

4 **SECTION 2.** 59.36 of the statutes is amended to read:

5 **59.36 Coroner and medical examiner; fees.** The board shall set the fees
6 for all services rendered by the coroner or medical examiner. The fees may not exceed
7 an amount that is reasonably related to the actual and necessary cost of providing
8 the service.

9 **SECTION 3.** 59.365 (1) (intro.) of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act
10 55, is amended to read:

11 59.365 (1) (intro.) From July 14, 2015, to April 17, 2017, the board may not
12 charge a ~~funeral home, cemetery, or crematorium~~ an amount that exceeds the
13 amount that was in effect actually charged on April 17, 2015, for any of the following
14 fees:

15 **SECTION 4.** 59.365 (1) (a) of the statutes, as created by 2015 Wisconsin Act 55,
16 is amended to read:

17 59.365 (1) (a) Fees for services rendered by a coroner or medical examiner.

