



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

March 10, 2022

By Daniel Dickerson

H.244 An act relating to authorizing the natural organic reduction of human remains

As recommended by the House Committee on General, Housing, and Military Affairs

URL for bill:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Ways%20and%20Means/Bills/H.244/H.244~Katie%20McLinn~As%20Recommended%20by%20the%20House%20Committee%20on%20General,%20Housing%20and%20Military%20Affairs~3-9-2022.pdf>

Bill Summary

The bill proposes to authorize the disposition of human remains through a process called natural organic reduction, which would be defined in 18 V.S.A. §5302. Facilities that provide natural organic reduction services, as well as cremations or alkaline hydrolyses, would be called disposition facilities, and would also be defined in statute, replacing the terms “crematory” and “crematory establishment”. The two new terms would be included in existing statutes that deal with the regulation of the disposition of human remains and the providers of such services. This bill would be effective on January 1, 2023, except for Sec. 27, which takes effect on June 1, 2023.

Fiscal Impact

Any State fiscal impact from the passage of this legislation is estimated to be negligible.

Disposition fees

Disposition facilities currently pay a \$25 fee to the Department of Health for cremations. This legislation proposes to subject natural organic reductions to this fee as well. This fee currently raises approximately \$100,000 per year. These fee revenues could increase starting in 2023 if dispositions that would not have been otherwise subject to the fee (i.e. not cremations) opt for natural organic reduction. New fee revenues to the State are unknown but would likely be small.

Licensing fees

This legislation proposes to require that disposition facilities be subject to regulation by the Office of Professional Regulations and pay initial and biennial licensing fees. The fee is currently set at \$70 for an initial license and for biennial renewals: \$800 per facility and \$125 for personnel. Starting on June 1, 2023 (per prior legislation) the biennial renewal fee for a facility will be \$640 and for personnel the fee will be \$100. New fee revenues to the State are unknown but would likely be small.