



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**SB 19-027**

**FISCAL NOTE**

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<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 19-0386	<b>Date:</b>	January 15, 2019
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Sen. Crowder Rep. Valdez D.	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Senate Local Government
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**Bill Topic:** COUNTY AUTHORITY UNCLAIMED BODY FINAL DISPOSITION

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**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill authorizes a county to use any lawful method for the final disposition of an unclaimed dead body. This bill potentially reduces county expenditures on an ongoing basis beginning in FY 2019-20.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, a county must bury an unclaimed dead body at the expense of the county after following certain procedures. This bill authorizes a county to use any lawful method for the final disposition of an unclaimed body including cremation and makes conforming amendments.

**Local Government**

Beginning in FY 2019-20, this bill potentially decreases county costs by allowing counties to use any legal method of disposing of an unclaimed dead body. Savings will occur to the extent that a county chooses to cremate rather than bury an unclaimed body. Any savings will vary by county depending on the number of unclaimed bodies and the cost of the method of final disposition. For informational purposes, rural counties are estimated to dispose of up to five unclaimed bodies per year and urban counties are estimated to dispose of approximately 20 unclaimed bodies per year. Burial costs are estimated to be \$5,000 while cremation costs are estimated to be \$2,000 per unclaimed body; therefore, rural counties choosing to cremate unclaimed bodies will save up to \$15,000 per year while urban counties will save approximately \$60,000.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties  
Municipalities

County Coroners  
Sheriffs

Local Affairs  
Special Districts