

FISCAL NOTE
SENATE BILL NO. 2139
LC# 23.0505.01000
01/11/2023

1 - State Fiscal Effect

Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.

	2021-2023 Biennium		2023-2025 Biennium		2025-2027 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues						
Expenditures				\$612,000		\$612,000
Appropriations				\$612,000		\$612,000

2 - County, City, School District, and Township Fiscal Effect

Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.

	2021-2023 Biennium	2023-2025 Biennium	2025-2027 Biennium
Counties		\$612,000	\$612,000
Cities			
School Districts			
Townships			

3 - Bill and Fiscal Impact Summary

Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).

Senate Bill 2139 establishes \$3,500 as the standard payment for burial assistance that is administered by Human Service Zones. Burial assistance is provided in circumstances where an individual or their estate has no or limited means to pay for final disposition of the individual.

4 - Fiscal Impact Sections Detail

Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.

During calendar year 2022, North Dakota's 19 Human Service Zones approved 272 requests for final disposition through the burial assistance program. Today Human Service Zones establish their own standards for payment. Payments range from \$1,900 to \$4,500 per disposition, with \$2,300 as the average across all Human Service Zones. The total expenditure for burial assistance in calendar year 2022 was \$624,000.

Over the last three years, Human Service Zones have provided assistance for an average of 300 dispositions per year. Using the new payment rate established in SB 2139 for all Human Service Zones would result in an estimated biennial cost of \$2,100,000.

The 21-23 budget included \$1,201,200 for indigent burial assistance. The 23-25 executive budget recommendation includes \$1,480,200 for indigent burial assistance.

5 - Revenues Detail

For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1 or 2, please explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.

None

6 - Expenditures Detail

For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1 or 2, please explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.

300 dispositions per year (average) at a cost of \$3,500 per disposition results in a projected biennial expenditure of \$2,100,000.

7 - Appropriations Detail

For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1 or 2, please explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.

The 2023-25 Executive Budget Recommendation for Human Service Zone budgets is \$200 million and includes \$1,488,200 for burial assistance. To adequately fund the cost of burial assistance as outlined in SB 2139, the Human Service Zone budget would need to be increased by \$612,000.

Note: Human Service Zone budgets are funded via the Property Tax Relief Fund, which has a legislatively established cap of \$200 million.

Contact Information

Name: Donna Aukland

Agency: Health and Human Services

Telephone: 7013284924

Date Prepared: 01/11/2023