

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2705

By: Hickman

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending Section 2, Chapter 559, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 948.1), which relates to medicolegal investigations; modifying certain invoice procedures; modifying fee schedule; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 559, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2005, Section 948.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 948.1 A. The Board of Medicolegal Investigations may establish a fee schedule for forensic services, permits and reports rendered to members of the public and other agencies. The Board shall submit an invoice for payment of fees directly to the party for whom the service or permit was provided and shall not submit an invoice to a third-party intermediary.

1. No fee schedule may be established or amended by the Board except during a regular legislative session. The Board shall comply with the Administrative Procedures Act for adoption of rules and establishing or amending any such fee schedule.

2. Except as otherwise specified in this section, the Board shall charge fees only within the following ranges:

- a. permit for cremations that occur within the state:  
One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) ~~to Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00),~~

- b. forensic science service: One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00),
- c. report copies: Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for report of investigation, including toxicology, and Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) for an autopsy report, including toxicology,
- d. x-rays: Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) each,
- e. microscopic slides, Hematoxilyn and Eosin (H&E): Ten Dollars (\$10.00) each,
- f. special stains: Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) each, and
- g. photographs: Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per computer diskette (CD), and
- h. transport out-of-state investigations: Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00).

B. The Board shall base the fee schedule for forensic science services, permits and reports upon reasonable costs of review, investigation and forensic science service delivery; provided, however, the fee schedule shall be within the ranges specified in subsection A of this section. The Board shall continue a system of basic and continuing educational service and training for all personnel who render forensic science services in order to ensure uniform statewide application of the rules of the Board. The Board shall consider the reasonable costs associated with such training and continuing education in setting the forensic science service fees.

C. The Board may exempt by rule any agency or class of individuals from the requirements of the fee schedule if the Board determines that the fees would cause an unreasonable economic hardship or would otherwise hinder or conflict with an agency's responsibilities.

D. All statutory fees currently in effect for permits or forensic science services administered by the Chief Medical Examiner

and the Board of Medicolegal Investigations within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall remain in effect until such time as the Board acts to implement new schedules pursuant to the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

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