

Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Budget Report

Insert the following language:

The Committee notes the Governor's recommendation for the Department which eliminated funding for the funeral assistance program. The agency requested \$760,000, all from the State General Fund, for FY 2012 to provide a \$600 reimbursement for 1,273 funerals. This program provided minimal reimbursement of \$550 per service to participating funeral homes which provide funeral services to deceased public assistance recipients. The Committee notes that the reimbursement amount prior to program elimination had been decreased to the point where it did not generally cover all expenditures incurred by the funeral homes. The Committee notes that the elimination of this program will result in the shifting of funeral reimbursement expenditures for public aid recipients with no other resources to county and local units of government or to local funeral homes.

The Committee recognizes the generosity of participating funeral directors and counties and commends those individuals who ensure that public assistance recipients are buried with dignity.

Appropriations Committee

Date March 11, 2011

Attachment 9