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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**S.B. 323**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for S.B. 323's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Blessing

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill authorizes the use of natural organic reduction as an allowable form of disposition for human remains in any situation in which cremation is allowed and requires reduction to be regulated generally in the same manner as cremation.
- The bill establishes a licensing framework for natural organic reduction facilities under the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (FUN). The license application and biennial renewal fee are \$400, and the permit application and biennial renewal fee are \$150. These fees are deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90).
- Any regulatory costs experienced by FUN would likely be offset by the fee structure created under the bill.
- The bill permits local governments to use natural organic reduction, alongside cremation and burial, for indigent individuals. Local governments may seek reimbursement of the costs of organic reduction through FUN through the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program.

### **Detailed Analysis**

#### **Overview**

The bill expands the permissible methods for the disposition of human remains, adding natural organic reduction, whereby remains are converted into soil in a reduction chamber using natural decomposition through pulverizing bone fragments and adding natural organic materials. Overall, the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (FUN) may experience some minimal additional costs related to licensure and regulation of this new disposition method.

However, these costs will likely be offset by additional revenue gain through the bill's new fee structure. It is unclear how many new reduction facilities will apply for licensure under the bill, nor how many existing disposition facilities will elect to obtain licensure to use reduction.

The bill also permits local governments to use natural organic reduction, alongside cremation and burial, for indigent individuals. These expenses would initially be borne by the local government and reimbursed by FUN through the Indigent Burial and Cremation Support Program, paid through GRF appropriation line item 881500, Indigent Burial and Cremation Support, upon approval of an application. This program was appropriated \$250,000 in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 through H.B. 96, the main operating budget.

## Fee creation

The bill establishes fees for licensing and operating reduction facilities. These fees will be deposited into the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund (Fund 4K90). Revenue generated, as well as regulatory costs, will ultimately depend on the number of licenses issued. A detailed fee schedule is provided in the table below.

Fee Type	Fee Dollar Amount
Reduction facility license application fee	\$400
Biennial reduction facility license renewal	\$400
Lapsed license reinstatement fee	\$50 for each month or portion of a month the license was lapsed, capped at \$500
Initial reduction facility operator permit	\$150
Biennial renewal of reduction facility operator permit	\$150
Lapsed reduction facility operation permit reinstatement fee	\$50 for each month or portion of a month the license was lapsed, capped at \$500