

HB 1773 -- DEPENDENCY EXEMPTION FOR STILLBORN CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Funderburk

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Tax Reform by a vote of 8 to 1 with 1 present.

Beginning January 1, 2009, this bill authorizes an income tax dependency exemption for the taxable year in which a stillborn child was born if the child would otherwise have been a member of the taxpayer's household.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$32,976 in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill creates a one-time dependency exemption deduction for families for a stillborn child. Currently, when a child is stillborn at 20 weeks or older or weighs at least 350 grams, the state requires a report to be filed. If the report is required, a dependency exemption will be allowed. The bill will provide support, show respect for the loss, and help with the healing process for grieving families. It has little cost to the state and will help families who have already incurred expenses preparing for their child's birth and the medical bills.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Funderburk; and City of St. Peters.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.