

# ESTABLISH GENEALOGY PROJECTS FUND



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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## HOUSE BILL 6162 SUBSTITUTEFLOOR ANALYSIS - 11/12/02

**Sponsor:** Rep. Tom George

**House Committee:** Commerce

**Analyst(s):** Susan Frey

Steve Stauff

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### SUMMARY

House Bill 6162 (H-1), as reported by the House Committee on Commerce, amends the Public Health Code to establish a Genealogy Projects Fund in the Department of Treasury. The Department of History, Arts, and Libraries shall use the funds for genealogy programs.

Revenue will be deposited to the Genealogy Projects Fund from the sale of heirloom marriage and birth certificates by the state registrar of the Department of Community Health (DCH). The fee for an heirloom certificate is to be established by rule, and must exceed the cost to DCH to create a certificate. The bill directs the state registrar to transmit to the State Treasurer for the Genealogy Projects Fund that portion of the fee that exceeds the cost to generate the heirloom certificate.

The bill may generate revenue for state genealogy projects. In the year 2000, more than 136,000 births occurred in Michigan and more than 66,800 marriages in the year 2001. Using the following assumptions, the annual revenue to the Genealogy Projects Fund would be \$20,300:

- requests for heirloom certificates are made by 1% of persons having a birth or marriage annually; and
- the portion of the fee that would be transmitted to the Genealogy Projects Fund would be \$10.

Currently, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries receives a \$100,000 Abrams Foundation grant for the purchase of genealogy specific materials and support services. There are many other State Library and Historical Center resources that are used by genealogists but are not identifiable as genealogy specific costs. Such resources include Michigan newspapers on microfilm, census microfilm, published family and local histories, on-line genealogy information (Ancestry Plus), microfilmed city directories, naturalization records, Michigan maps and land purchase records. Proceeds from the Genealogy Projects Fund would augment the Abrams Foundation grant for genealogy support.