



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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August 29, 2019

Honorable Bill Hitchens  
Chairman, Public Safety and Homeland Security  
401-D State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill 417 (LC 41 1919S)

Dear Chairman Hitchens:

This bill would provide comprehensive regulation of trauma cleanup services and require trauma scene waste management practitioners to register with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) every three years. Each practitioner would be required to pay an initial \$100 registration fee and a subsequent \$100 renewal fee every three years. Providers would need to be bonded and insured and submit to a criminal background screening. GBI would maintain a list of registered practitioners on its website.

### Impact on State Expenditures

The bill is estimated to increase GBI personnel and operating costs, as the agency does not currently provide registration services for individuals. While we do not have a precise number of trauma cleanup service providers in Georgia, we estimate it to be fewer than 100.<sup>1</sup> Provider regulation would be a new function for GBI, and each license requires certain tasks inclusive of payment processing, background screenings, and general compliance assurance. One additional staff person is likely needed and sufficient to manage the process. As shown in Table 1, the additional employee is estimated to result in annual costs of \$46,933 (personnel and operating) and one-time operating costs of \$1,546.

**Table 1. Estimated GBI Expenses**

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Personal Services	\$43,873	\$43,873	\$43,873
Operating Expenses (Annual)	\$3,060	\$3,060	\$3,060
Operating Expenses (One-Time)	\$1,546	--	--
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$48,479</b>	<b>\$46,933</b>	<b>\$46,933</b>

<sup>1</sup>In FY19, 14 certified trauma scene cleanup providers received reimbursement payments from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). A complementary directory search of crime scene cleanup businesses yielded an additional 41 companies for a total of 55.

- **Annual Costs** – Annual costs are associated with additional GBI personnel. GBI would hire an additional administrative support clerk due to the increased workload, primarily associated with the responsibility for registration processing for no more than 100 trauma scene waste management companies. The staff person would largely be responsible for ensuring that companies comply with regulatory requirements. The annual costs include personnel salary and benefits, as well as annual computer charges, phone charges, and supplies.

Our annual cost estimate assumes that GBI licensing duties would not require inspections of the licensees' business locations or work sites. If site inspections were necessary, additional expenses would be incurred.

- **One-Time Costs** – The one-time costs account for \$1,546 in expenses related to the new hire (supplies, equipment, etc.).

**Impact on State Revenue**

If 100 companies are subject to the bill, the \$100 registration fee would generate \$10,000 in state revenue in the bill's first year. The same amount would be collected for renewals three years later. In addition to the registration fee, each company's owners must pay \$41 for a Georgia and FBI criminal background check. The state retains \$27.75 for each background check; therefore, 100 background checks would generate \$2,775 in state revenue. Background checks would be conducted every three years, following the registration renewal schedule.

Sincerely,



Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor



Kelly Farr, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget