

**House File 38 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 38

BY KRESSIG and BROWN-POWERS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act making an appropriation to provide assistance to  
2 parents, guardians, and custodians with costs resulting from  
3 the death of a child.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. CHILD FUNERAL ASSISTANCE. There is appropriated  
2 from the general fund of the state to the department of public  
3 health for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, and ending  
4 June 30, 2020, the following amount, or so much thereof as is  
5 necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

6 For a grant to assist parents in this state with costs  
7 resulting from the death of a child in accordance with this  
8 section:

9 ..... \$ 100,000

10 1. The department shall award the amount appropriated in  
11 this section in the form of a grant to a nonprofit organization  
12 located in a city in this state with a population of more than  
13 2,283 but less than 2,320 based on the 2010 federal decennial  
14 census. The organization shall be approved to operate under  
15 section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code and have  
16 been providing assistance since at least July 2011, to parents,  
17 guardians, and custodians with funeral-related expenses  
18 resulting from the unintended death of a child.

19 2. The grantee shall utilize the grant to assist parents who  
20 reside in this state with costs incurred for a funeral, burial  
21 or cremation, cemetery costs, or grave marker costs associated  
22 with the unintended death of a child of the parent or a child  
23 under the care of a guardian or custodian. The grantee shall  
24 apply the following eligibility factors in awarding such  
25 assistance:

26 a. The child was a stillborn infant or was less than age  
27 eighteen at the time of death.

28 b. The request for assistance was approved by the local  
29 board or department of health or the county general assistance  
30 director and may have been referred by a local funeral home.

31 c. To be eligible, the parent, guardian, or custodian must  
32 be receiving public assistance benefits through the county,  
33 state, or federal government, or provide other evidence of a  
34 lack of financial resources to pay more than a portion of the  
35 costs. Public assistance benefits shall include but are not

1 limited to county general assistance, or benefits provided  
2 through the family investment program, federal food assistance  
3 program, medical assistance program, or state child care  
4 assistance program, or housing assistance.

5 d. The maximum amount of grant assistance provided under  
6 this section to a parent, guardian, or custodian associated  
7 with the death of a child is \$2,000. If the death is a multiple  
8 death and the infants or children are being cremated, or buried  
9 together, the same limitation applies.

10 e. To the extent the overall amount of assistance received  
11 by a recipient for the costs addressed under this section does  
12 not exceed the overall total of the costs, the recipient may  
13 receive other public or private assistance in addition to grant  
14 assistance under this section.

15 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in  
16 this section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the  
17 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain  
18 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until  
19 expended.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill makes an appropriation to the department of public  
24 health for a grant to provide assistance to parents, guardians,  
25 and custodians with the costs resulting from the death of a  
26 child.

27 The bill includes grantee qualifications; limits assistance  
28 to the costs incurred for a funeral, burial or cremation,  
29 cemetery costs, or grave marker costs associated with the  
30 unintended death of a child of the parent or a child under  
31 the care or custody of the guardian or custodian; limits  
32 eligibility to parents, guardians, and custodians who receive  
33 county, state, or federal public assistance or do not have  
34 the financial resources to pay for more than a portion of the  
35 costs; requires approval of a request for assistance by a local

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1 board or department of public health or the county general  
2 assistance director; limits assistance under the grant to not  
3 more than \$2,000; and allows a recipient to receive other  
4 public or private assistance in addition to grant assistance.  
5 The appropriation does not revert but remains available until  
6 expended.