



April 21, 2003

Original: 2333

Ms. Michelle DeMerice
Administrative Officer
State Board of Funeral Directors
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

03 APR 26 PM 1:35
DEMERICE

Re: Reference No. 16A-4811 (Renewal Fee)

Dear Ms. DeMerice:

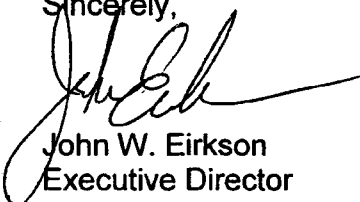
The Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association would like to comment on the proposed increase in biennial license renewal fees for funeral directors in Pennsylvania, as published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin Document No. 03-449.

The proposed increase from \$130 to \$185 – more than 42 percent – is substantial and should be closely examined.

The majority of funeral directors in Pennsylvania operates small businesses that directly feel the impact of such decisions. In the current economic climate, they are working harder than ever to control their costs. They cannot continue to work without current licenses, yet the cost of the license renewal is beyond their control.

We understand that this is the first increase since 1992. Our suggestion is that a smaller incremental increase over a period of several license renewal cycles would be helpful to our members.

A representative of the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association can be available to discuss our position in this regard at the convenience at the State Board of Funeral Directors.

Sincerely,

John W. Eirkson
Executive Director

JWE/cnh

cc: PFDA Board Members