



Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee

Senator Robert M. Tomlinson, *Chairman*

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BILL ANALYSIS

DATE: April 19, 2012

COMMITTEE: Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

BILL NO.: HB 973

PRIME SPONSOR: Rep. Kula

PRINTER NO. 1945

House Bill 973 amends the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to provide for the final disposition of cremated remains of veterans.

In the event that a legally authorized person in control of the final disposition of a cremated decedent has not made arrangements for the disposition of the decedent, funeral directors or funeral establishments must follow the following procedure if the cremated remains have been in their possession for more than 120 days and they determine that the decedent is a veteran.

If the decedent has been identified as a veteran, the funeral director or funeral establishment must give the cremated remains to a veterans' service organization for final disposition. The funeral director or establishment must make a good faith effort to notify the next of kin and keep a record identifying the veterans' service organization that received the remains and the National Cemetery site designated for final disposition.

The legislation holds the funeral director and funeral establishment harmless for sharing information with the US Department of Veteran Affairs, a veterans' service organization or a national cemetery in order to determine if the cremated remains are of a veteran. The funeral director, funeral establishment and veterans' service organization are also held harmless from any costs or damages and discharged from legal obligation or liability concerning the cremated remains.

This shall take effect in 60 days.

AMENDMENT A10006 TO HB 973:

This amendment changes the allowable time for filing certificates of death or fetal death from 96 hours to four business days. It also allows local registrars to issue certified copies of the original certificate of death for 90 days after the original certificate has been issued.