

By Representative Evers

1                               A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to unclaimed bodies; amending  
3           s. 245.06, F.S.; providing procedures for  
4           disposition of unclaimed bodies of veterans;  
5           requiring that any contract for disposal of  
6           unclaimed remains by a local governmental  
7           entity provide for compliance with certain  
8           state and federal regulations; providing an  
9           effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Section 245.06, Florida Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15           245.06 Unclaimed dead bodies or human remains;  
16 disposition, procedure.--All public officers, agents, or  
17 employees of every county, city, village, town, or  
18 municipality and every person in charge of any prison, morgue,  
19 hospital, funeral parlor, or mortuary and all other persons  
20 coming into possession, charge, or control of any dead human  
21 body or remains which are ~~is~~ unclaimed or which are ~~is~~  
22 required to be buried or cremated at public expense are hereby  
23 required to notify, immediately, the anatomical board,  
24 whenever any such body, or bodies, or remains come into its  
25 possession, charge, or control. Notification of the anatomical  
26 board is not required if the death was caused by crushing  
27 injury, the deceased had a contagious disease, an autopsy was  
28 required to determine cause of death, the body was in a state  
29 of severe decomposition, or a family member objects to use of  
30 the body for medical education and research.

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1           (1) The person or entity in charge or control of the  
2 dead body or human remains shall make a reasonable effort to  
3 determine:

4           (a) The identity of the deceased person ~~body~~ and shall  
5 further make a reasonable effort to contact any relatives of  
6 such deceased person.

7           (b) Whether or not the deceased person is entitled to  
8 burial in a national cemetery as a veteran of the armed forces  
9 and, if so, shall make arrangements for such burial services  
10 in accordance with the provisions of 38 C.F.R. For purposes of  
11 this subsection "a reasonable effort" includes contacting the  
12 county veterans service office or regional office of the  
13 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

14           (2) Such dead human bodies as described in this  
15 chapter shall be delivered to the anatomical board as soon as  
16 possible after death.

17           (3) Nothing herein shall affect the right of a medical  
18 examiner to hold such dead body or remains for the purpose of  
19 investigating the cause of death, nor shall this chapter  
20 affect the right of any court of competent jurisdiction to  
21 enter an order affecting the disposition of such body or  
22 remains.

23  
24 For purposes of this chapter, the term "anatomical board"  
25 means the anatomical board of this state located at the  
26 University of Florida Health Science Center.

27           Section 2. Any contract by a local governmental entity  
28 for the disposal of unclaimed human remains must provide for  
29 compliance with s. 245.06(1), Florida Statutes, and require  
30 that the procedures in 38 C.F.R., relating to disposition of  
31 unclaimed deceased veterans, be followed.

1 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
2 law.

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5 HOUSE SUMMARY

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7 With respect to unclaimed bodies, requires that a  
8 reasonable effort be made to determine if the deceased  
9 person is a veteran of the armed forces and, if so, that  
10 arrangements be made pursuant to federal regulations for  
11 proper burial services. Requires any contract for  
12 disposal of unclaimed human remains let by a local  
13 governmental entity provide for compliance with certain  
14 state and federal procedures relating to the unclaimed  
15 human remains of a veteran.  
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