Florida Senate - 2002

By Senator Peaden

1-1519-02 See HB A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to unclaimed bodies; amending 3 s. 245.06, F.S.; providing procedures for disposition of unclaimed bodies of veterans; 4 5 providing an effective date. 6 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 8 9 Section 1. Section 245.06, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 10 11 245.06 Unclaimed dead bodies or human remains; 12 disposition, procedure. -- All public officers, agents, or 13 employees of every county, city, village, town, or municipality and every person in charge of any prison, morgue, 14 15 hospital, funeral parlor, or mortuary and all other persons 16 coming into possession, charge, or control of any dead human body or remains which are is unclaimed or which are is 17 18 required to be buried or cremated at public expense are hereby required to notify, immediately, the anatomical board, 19 20 whenever any such body, or bodies, or remains come into its 21 possession, charge, or control. Notification of the anatomical 22 board is not required if the death was caused by crushing 23 injury, the deceased had a contagious disease, an autopsy was 24 required to determine cause of death, the body was in a state of severe decomposition, or a family member objects to use of 25 26 the body for medical education and research. 27 (1) The person or entity in charge or control of the 28 dead body or human remains shall make a reasonable effort to 29 determine: 30 31 1

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(a) The identity of the deceased person body and shall 1 further make a reasonable effort to contact any relatives of 2 3 such deceased person. 4 (b) Whether or not the deceased person is entitled to 5 burial in a national cemetery as a veteran of the armed forces б and, if so, the funeral home shall make arrangements for such 7 burial services. For purposes of this subsection "a reasonable effort" includes contacting the county veterans service office 8 9 or regional office of the United States Department of Veterans 10 Affairs. 11 (2) Such dead human bodies as described in this chapter shall be delivered to the anatomical board as soon as 12 13 possible after death. (3) Nothing herein shall affect the right of a medical 14 15 examiner to hold such dead body or remains for the purpose of investigating the cause of death, nor shall this chapter 16 17 affect the right of any court of competent jurisdiction to enter an order affecting the disposition of such body or 18 19 remains. 20 For purposes of this chapter, the term "anatomical board" 21 means the anatomical board of this state located at the 22 23 University of Florida Health Science Center. 24 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a 25 law. 26 27 28 HOUSE SUMMARY 29 With respect to unclaimed bodies, requires that a reasonable effort be made to determine if the deceased person is a veteran of the armed forces and, if so, that 30 31 arrangements be made for proper burial services. 2

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