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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to funeral directing, embalming, and direct disposition; amending s. 470.002, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 470.0085, F.S.; extending the embalmer apprentice period; amending s. 470.021, F.S.; providing additional requirements to be a direct disposal establishment; providing inspection requirements and criteria; amending s. 470.024, F.S.; revising requirements to be a funeral establishment; amending s. 470.025, F.S.; revising cremation requirements for cinerator facilities relating to simultaneous cremations, body parts, cremation containers, and the cremation chamber; providing exemption from liability for unintentional or incidental commingling of remains under certain conditions; amending s. 470.0255, F.S.; providing for cremation of parts of human bodies incidental to final disposition; amending s. 470.028, F.S.; providing for control and supervision of preneed agents; amending s. 470.029, F.S.; extending the filing time for reports of bodies embalmed or handled; amending s. 470.0294, F.S.; expanding authority of legally authorized persons with respect to fetal remains; amending s. 470.031, F.S.; prohibiting any guarantee on the future price of any goods or services; providing penalties; amending s. 470.0355, F.S.; revising requirements for identification of human remains prior to final disposition; providing requirements for identification of human remains in licensed and unlicensed cemeteries and by direct disposal establishments; reenacting s. 470.036, F.S., relating to disciplinary proceedings, to incorporate the amendment to

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s. 470.031, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 470.002, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

470.002 Definitions.--As used in this chapter:

- (1)(15) "Alternative container" means a nonmetal receptacle or enclosure which is less expensive than a casket and of sufficient strength to be used to hold and transport a dead human body.
- (2)(22) "At-need solicitation" means any uninvited contact by a funeral director or direct disposer for the purpose of the sale of funeral services or merchandise to the family or next of kin of a person after that person has died.
- $\underline{(3)}$ "Board" means the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.
 - (4) "Body parts" means:
- (a) Limbs or other portions of the anatomy that are removed from a person or human remains for medical purposes during treatment, surgery, biopsy, autopsy, or medical research; or
- (b) Human bodies or any portions of human bodies which have been donated to science for medical research purposes.
- (5)(16) "Casket" means a rigid container which is designed for the encasement of human remains for burial, and which is usually constructed of wood or metal, ornamented, and lined with fabric, and which may or may not be combustible.



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(6)(27) "Centralized embalming facility" means a facility, not physically connected with a funeral establishment, in which embalming takes place.

- (7)(14) "Cinerator" means a facility where dead human bodies are reduced to a residue, including bone fragments, by direct flame, also known as "cremation," or by intense heat, also known as "calcination."
- (8) "Closed container" means any container in which cremated remains can be placed and closed in a manner so as to prevent leakage or spillage of the remains.
- (9) "Cremated remains" means all the remains of the human body recovered after the completion of the cremation process, including processing or pulverization which leaves only bone fragments reduced to unidentifiable dimensions and may include the residue of any foreign matter, including casket material, bridgework, or eyeglasses that were cremated with the human remains.
- <u>(10)(24)</u> "Cremation" <u>means the technical process, using</u> direct flame and heat, that reduces human remains to bone fragments through heat and evaporation. Cremation includes the processing and usually includes the pulverization of the bone fragments includes any mechanical or thermal process whereby a dead human body is reduced to ashes and bone fragments.

 Cremation also includes any other mechanical or thermal process whereby human remains are pulverized, burned, recremated, or otherwise further reduced in size or quantity.
- (11) "Cremation chamber" means the enclosed space within which the cremation process takes place. Cremation chambers covered by these procedures must be used exclusively for the cremation of human remains.



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(12) "Cremation container" means the container in which the human remains are transported to and placed in the cremation chamber for a cremation. A cremation container should meet substantially all of the following standards:

- $\underline{\mbox{(a)} \mbox{ Be composed of readily combustible materials suitable}}$ for cremation.
- (b) Be able to be closed in order to provide a complete covering for the human remains.
 - (c) Be resistant to leakage or spillage.
 - (d) Be rigid enough to be handled with ease.
- (e) Be able to provide protection for the health, safety, and personal integrity of crematory personnel.
- (13) "Cremation interment container" means a rigid outer container that, subject to a cemetery's rules and regulations, is composed of concrete, steel, fiberglass, or some similar material in which an urn is placed prior to being interred in the ground and which is designed to support the earth above the urn.
- (14)(1) "Department" means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- (15) "Direct disposal establishment" means a facility registered under this chapter where a direct disposer practices direct disposition.
- $\underline{(16)}_{(9)}$ "Direct disposer" means any person registered under this chapter to practice direct disposition in this state.
- $\underline{(17)(28)}$ "Disinterment" means removal of a dead human body from earth interment or aboveground interment.
- $\underline{(18)}(5)$ "Embalmer" means any person licensed under this chapter to practice embalming in this state.



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(19)(11) "Final disposition" means the final disposal of a dead human body by earth interment, aboveground interment, cremation, burial at sea, or delivery to a medical institution for lawful dissection if the medical institution assumes responsibility for disposal. "Final disposition" does not include the disposal or distribution of ashes and residue of cremated human remains.

- (20)(13) "Funeral" or "funeral service" means the observances, services, or ceremonies held to commemorate the life of a specific deceased human being, and at which the human remains are present.
- $\underline{(21)}(3)$ "Funeral director" means any person licensed under this chapter to practice funeral directing in this state.
- (22)(7) "Funeral establishment" means a facility licensed under this chapter where a funeral director or embalmer practices funeral directing or embalming.
- (23)(12) "Funeral merchandise" or "merchandise" means any merchandise commonly sold in connection with the funeral, final disposition, or memorialization of human remains, including, but not limited to, caskets, outer burial containers, alternative containers, cremation containers, cremation interment containers, urns, monuments, private mausoleums, flowers, shrubs, benches, vases, acknowledgment cards, register books, memory folders, prayer cards, and clothing.
- (24)(23) "Human remains" or "remains," "dead human body" or "dead human bodies," means the body of a deceased human person for which a death certificate or fetal death certificate is required under chapter 382 and includes the body in any stage of decomposition and the residue of cremated human bodies.



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(25)(18) "Legally authorized person" means, in the priority listed, the decedent, when written inter vivos authorizations and directions are provided by the decedent, the surviving spouse, unless the spouse has been arrested for committing against the deceased an act of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28 that resulted in or contributed to the death of the deceased, a son or daughter who is 18 years of age or older, a parent, a brother or sister 18 years of age or over, a grandchild who is 18 years of age or older, or a grandparent; or any person in the next degree of kinship. In addition, the term may include, if no family exists or is available, the following: the guardian of the dead person at the time of death; the personal representative of the deceased; the attorney in fact of the dead person at the time of death; the health surrogate of the dead person at the time of death; a public health officer; the medical examiner, county commission or administrator acting under chapter 245, or other public administrator; a representative of a nursing home or other health care institution in charge of final disposition; or a friend or other person not listed in this subsection who is willing to assume the responsibility as authorized person. Where there is a person in any priority class listed in this subsection, the funeral establishment shall rely upon the authorization of any one legally authorized person of that class if that individual represents that he or she is not aware of any objection to the cremation of the deceased's human remains by others in the same class of the person making the representation or of any person in a higher priority class.

(26) "Niche" means a compartment or cubicle for the memorialization or permanent placement of a container or urn



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containing cremated remains.

(27)(19) "Outer burial container" means an enclosure into which a casket is placed, including, but not limited to, a vault made of concrete, steel, fiberglass, or copper, a sectional concrete enclosure, a crypt, or a wooden enclosure.

- (28)(20) "Personal residence" means any residential building in which one temporarily or permanently maintains his or her abode, including, but not limited to, an apartment or a hotel, motel, nursing home, convalescent home, home for the aged, or a public or private institution.
- (29)(10) "Practice of direct disposition" means the cremation of human remains without preparation of the human remains by embalming and without any attendant services or rites such as funeral or graveside services or the making of arrangements for such final disposition.
- (30)(6) "Practice of embalming" means disinfecting or preserving or attempting to disinfect or preserve dead human bodies by replacing certain body fluids with preserving and disinfecting chemicals.
- (31) "Practice of funeral directing" means the performance by a licensed funeral director of any of those functions authorized by s. 470.0087.
- (32)(21) "Preneed sales agent" means any person who is registered under chapter 497 to sell preneed burial or funeral service and merchandise contracts or direct disposition contracts in this state.
- (33) "Processing" means the reduction of identifiable bone fragments after the completion of the cremation process to unidentifiable bone fragments by manual means.
 - (34) "Pulverization" means the reduction of identifiable

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bone fragments after the completion of the cremation and processing to granulated particles by manual or mechanical means.

- (35)(25) "Refrigeration facility" means a facility that is not physically connected with a funeral establishment, crematory or direct disposal establishment, that maintains space and equipment for the storage and refrigeration of dead human bodies, and that offers its service to funeral directors and funeral establishments for a fee.
- (36)(26) "Removal service" means any service that operates independently of a funeral establishment, that handles the initial removal of dead human bodies, and that offers its service to funeral establishments and direct disposal establishments for a fee.
- $\underline{(37)(17)}$ "Solicitation" means any communication which directly or implicitly requests an immediate oral response from the recipient.
- (38) "Temporary container" means a receptacle for cremated remains usually made of cardboard, plastic, or similar material designated to hold the cremated remains until an urn or other permanent container is acquired.
- (39) "Urn" means a receptacle designed to permanently encase cremated remains.
- Section 2. Section 470.0085, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 470.0085 Establishment of embalmer apprentice program.—The board may adopt rules establishing an embalmer apprentice program. An embalmer apprentice may perform only those tasks, functions, and duties relating to embalming which are performed under the direct supervision of a licensed

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embalmer. An embalmer apprentice shall be eligible to serve in an apprentice capacity for a period not to exceed 3 years 1 year as may be determined by board rule or for a period not to exceed 5 3 years if the apprentice is enrolled in and attending a course in mortuary science or funeral service education at any mortuary college or funeral service education college or school. An embalmer apprentice shall be registered with the board upon

Section 3. Subsections (2) and (5) of section 470.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

payment of a registration fee not to exceed \$50.

- 470.021 Direct disposal establishment; standards and location; registration.--
- at a fixed location of at least 625 interior contiguous square feet and must maintain or make arrangements for suitable capacity for the refrigeration and storage of dead human bodies handled and stored by the establishment. No person may open or maintain an establishment at which to engage in or hold himself or herself out as engaging in the practice of direct disposition unless such establishment is registered with the board. Any change in location of such establishment shall be reported promptly to the board as prescribed by rule of the board.
- (5)(a) Each direct disposal establishment shall at all times be subject to the inspection of all its buildings, grounds, and vehicles used in the conduct of its business, by the department, the Department of Health, and local government inspectors and by their agents. The board shall adopt rules which establish such inspection requirements.



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(b) The board shall set by rule an annual inspection fee not to exceed \$100, payable upon application for registration and upon each renewal of such registration.

- (c) Each cinerator facility shall be inspected prior to the issuance and renewal of its license and shall:
- 1. Maintain one or more retorts for the reduction of dead human bodies.
- 2. Maintain refrigeration which satisfies the standards set by the Department of Health and which contains a sufficient number of shelves for the average daily number of bodies stored, if unembalmed bodies are kept at the site.
- 3. Maintain sufficient pollution control equipment to comply with requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection in order to secure annual approved certification.
- 4. Either have on site or immediately available sufficient sealed containers of a type required for the transportation of bodies as specified in Rule 10D-37.012, F.A.C.
- 5. Maintain the premises in a clean and sanitary condition.
- 6. Have appropriate Department of Environmental Protection permits.
- 7. Retain all signed contracts for a period of at least 2 years.
- Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 470.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 470.024 Funeral establishment; licensure.--
- (1) A funeral establishment shall be a place at a specific street address or location consisting of at least 1,250 contiguous interior square feet and must maintain or make arrangements for either suitable capacity for the refrigeration

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and storage of dead human bodies handled and stored by the establishment <u>and</u> or a preparation room equipped with necessary ventilation and drainage and containing necessary instruments for embalming dead human bodies <u>or must make arrangements for a preparation room as established by board rule.</u>

Section 5. Subsections (6), (13), (14), and (15) of section 470.025, Florida Statutes, are amended, and subsection (16) is added to said section, to read:

470.025 Cinerator facility; licensure.--

- (6) No more than one dead human body may be placed in a retort at one time, unless written permission has been received from a legally authorized person for each body. The operator of a cinerator facility shall be entitled to rely on the permission of a legally authorized person to cremate more than one human body.
- body parts in a retort or cremation chamber unless the human remains are in an alternative container, cremation container, or casket. Human remains may be transported in a cremation container or stored if they are completely covered, and at all times treated with dignity and respect. Cremation may include the processing and pulverization of bone fragments. Cremated remains may be placed in a temporary container following cremation. None of the provisions contained in this subsection require the purchase of a casket for cremation. This subsection applies to at-need contracts and preneed contracts entered into pursuant to chapter 497 after June 1, 1996.
- (14) Each cinerator facility shall ensure that all alternative containers, cremation containers, or caskets used for cremation contain no amount of chlorinated plastics not

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to read:

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authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection, that they also are composed of readily combustible materials suitable for cremation, able to be closed to provide a complete covering for the human remains, resistant to leakage or spillage, rigid enough for handling with ease, and able to provide for the health, safety, and personal integrity of the public and crematory personnel.

- (15) The board shall adopt, by rule, criteria for acceptable cremation and alternative containers.
- written procedures for the removal of remains and bone fragments, to the extent possible, resulting from the cremation of a human body and the postcremation processing, shipping, packing, or identifying of those remains. If an operator follows these procedures, the operator is not liable for the unintentional or incidental commingling of human remains and bone fragments resulting from more than one cremation cycle or from postcremation processing, shipping, packing, or identifying of those remains. A copy of the procedures shall be available, upon request, to the department and legally authorized persons.

 Section 6. Section 470.0255, Florida Statutes, is amended

470.0255 Cremation; procedure required.--

(1) At the time of the arrangement for a cremation performed by any person licensed pursuant to this chapter, the person contracting for cremation services shall be required to designate his or her intentions with respect to the disposition of the cremated remains of the deceased in a signed declaration of intent which shall be provided by and retained by the funeral or direct disposal establishment. A cremation may not be



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performed until a legally authorized person gives written authorization for such cremation. The cremation must be performed within 48 hours after a specified time which has been agreed to in writing by the person authorizing the cremation.

- (2) With respect to any person who intends to provide for the cremation of the deceased, if, after a period of 120 days from the time of cremation the cremated remains have not been claimed, the funeral or direct disposal establishment may dispose of the cremated remains. Such disposal shall include scattering them at sea or placing them in a licensed cemetery scatter garden or pond or in a church columbarium or otherwise disposing of the remains as provided by rule of the department or board.
- (3) Pursuant to the request of a legally authorized person and incidental to final disposition, cremation may be performed on parts of human remains. This subsection does not authorize the cremation of body parts as defined in s. 470.002.
- Section 7. Section 470.028, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 470.028 Preneed sales; registration of agents; control and supervision of agents.--
- (1) All sales of preneed funeral service contracts or direct disposition contracts shall be made pursuant to chapter 497.
- (2) No person may act as an agent for a funeral establishment or direct disposal establishment with respect to the sale of preneed contracts unless such person is registered pursuant to chapter 497.
- (3) Each licensee or registrant shall be subject to discipline if his or her agent violates any provision of this

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chapter applicable to such licensee or registrant as established by board rule.

- (4)(a) The funeral director in charge of a funeral establishment shall be responsible for the control and activities of the establishment's preneed agents.
- (b) The direct disposer in charge or a funeral director acting as a direct disposer in charge of a direct disposal establishment shall be responsible for the control and activities of the establishment's preneed agents.
- Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 470.029, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 470.029 Reports of cases embalmed and bodies handled .--
- establishment, cinerator facility, and centralized embalming facility shall report on a form prescribed and furnished by the department the name of the deceased and such other information as may be required with respect to each dead human body embalmed or otherwise handled by the establishment or facility. Such forms shall be signed by the embalmer who performs the embalming, if the body is embalmed, and the funeral director in charge of the establishment or facility or by the direct disposer who disposes of the body. The board shall prescribe by rule the procedures in submitting such documentation. Reports required by this subsection shall be filed by the 20th 10th day of each month for final dispositions handled the preceding month.
- Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 470.0294, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 414 470.0294 Additional rights of legally authorized 415 persons.--



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(1) In addition to any other common law or statutory rights a legally authorized person may otherwise have, that person may authorize a funeral director or direct disposer licensed under this chapter to lawfully dispose of fetal remains in circumstances when a fetal death certificate is not issued under chapter 382, including for fetal death of less than 20 weeks' gestation. A person licensed under chapter 470 is not liable for damages as a result of following the instructions of the legally authorized person in connection with the final disposition of fetal remains in circumstances in which a fetal death certificate is not issued under chapter 382 or in connection with the final disposition of a dead human body.

Section 10. Section 470.031, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

470.031 Prohibitions; penalties.--

- (1) No person may:
- (a) Practice funeral directing, embalming, or direct disposition unless the person holds an active license or registration under this chapter.
- (b) Use the name or title "funeral director," "embalmer," or "direct disposer" when the person has not been licensed or registered pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) Represent as his or her own the license or registration of another.
- (d) Give false or forged evidence to the board, a member thereof, or the department for the purpose of obtaining a license or registration.
- (e) Use or attempt to use a license or registration which has been suspended or revoked.



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- (f) Knowingly employ unlicensed persons in the practice of funeral directing, embalming, or direct disposing.
- (g) Knowingly conceal information relative to violations of this chapter.
 - (h) Operate an unlicensed cinerator facility.
- (i) Except as provided for in chapter 497, guarantee the price of goods and services at a future date.
- (2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 11. Section 470.0355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

470.0355 Identification of human remains.--

(1) PRIOR TO FINAL DISPOSITION. --

(a)(1) The licensee or registrant in charge of the final disposition of dead human remains shall, prior to final disposition of such dead human remains, affix on the ankle or wrist of the deceased, and or in the casket or alternative container or cremation container, proper identification of the dead human remains. The identification or tag shall be encased in or consist of durable and long-lasting material containing the name, date of birth, and date of death, and social security number of the deceased, if available. If the dead human remains are cremated, proper identification shall be placed in the container or urn containing the remains.

 $\underline{(b)(2)}$ Any licensee or registrant responsible for removal of dead human remains to any establishment, facility, or location shall ensure that the remains are identified by a tag or other means of identification that is affixed to the ankle or



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wrist of the deceased at the time the remains are removed from the place of death or other location.

- $\underline{(c)(3)}$ Any licensee or registrant may rely on the representation of a legally authorized person to establish the identity of dead human remains.
- (2) IN UNLICENSED CEMETERIES. -- Effective October 1, 2003, the identification of human remains interred in an unlicensed cemetery shall be the responsibility of the licensed funeral establishment in charge of the funeral arrangements for the deceased person. The licensed funeral establishment in charge of the funeral arrangements for the interment in an unlicensed cemetery of human remains shall place on the outer burial container, cremation internment container, or other container or on the inside of a crypt or niche a tag or permanent identifying mark containing the name of the decedent and the date of death, if available. The materials and locations of the tag or mark shall be more specifically described by the rule of the board.
- (3) IN LICENSED CEMETERIES.--Effective October 1, 2003, human remains at licensed cemeteries shall be identified as follows:
- (a) Each licensed cemetery shall place on the outer burial container, cremation interment container, or other container or on the inside of a crypt or niche a tag or permanent identifying marker containing the name of the decedent and the date of death, if available. The materials and the location of the tag or marker shall be more specifically described by rule of the board.
- (b) Each licensed cemetery may rely entirely on the identity stated on the burial transit permit or on the identification supplied by a person licensed under chapter 470



to establish the identity of the dead human remains delivered by such person for burial and shall not be liable for any differences between the identity shown on the burial transit permit or identification and the actual identity of the dead human remains delivered by such person and buried in the

cemetery.

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- establishments shall establish a system of identification of human remains received which shall be designed to track the identity of the remains from the time of receipt until delivery of the remains to the authorized persons. This is in addition to the requirements for identification of human remains set forth in subsection (1). A copy of the identification procedures shall be available, upon request, to the department and legally authorized persons.
- Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment to section 470.031, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 470.036, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

470.036 Disciplinary proceedings.--

- (1) The following acts constitute grounds for which the disciplinary actions in subsection (2) may be taken:
- (a) Violation of any provision of s. 455.227(1) or s. 470.031.
- Section 13. This act shall take effect October 1, 2003.