

By Senator Posey

24-153-05

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the disposition of dead bodies; amending s. 406.12, F.S.; increasing a penalty for failing to report certain deaths to the district medical examiner or to alter the evidence or circumstances surrounding the death;; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 406.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

406.12 Duty to report; prohibited acts.--It is the duty of any person in the district where a death occurs, including all municipalities and unincorporated and federal areas, who becomes aware of the death of any person occurring under the circumstances described in s. 406.11 to report such death and circumstances forthwith to the district medical examiner. Any person who knowingly fails or refuses to report such death and circumstances, who refuses to make available prior medical or other information pertinent to the death investigation, or who, without an order from the office of the district medical examiner, willfully touches, removes, or disturbs the body, clothing, or any article upon or near the body, with the intent to alter the evidence or circumstances surrounding the death, commits ~~shall be guilty of a felony~~ ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, ~~or~~ s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Increases the penalty for failure to report certain deaths to the district medical examiner or willfully alter evidence.