

By Senator Stewart

17-00940-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the duty to report certain deaths;  
3           amending s. 406.12, F.S.; reclassifying the criminal  
4           penalty for failure or refusal to report certain  
5           deaths and information to the district medical  
6           examiner or for engaging in specified conduct related  
7           to such deaths; providing an effective date.

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

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

13           406.12 Duty to report; prohibited acts.—It is the duty of  
14           any person in the district where a death occurs, including all  
15           municipalities and unincorporated and federal areas, who becomes  
16           aware of the death of any person occurring under the  
17           circumstances described in s. 406.11 to immediately report such  
18           death and circumstances ~~forthwith~~ to the district medical  
19           examiner. Any person who knowingly fails or refuses to report  
20           such death and circumstances, who refuses to make available  
21           prior medical or other information pertinent to the death  
22           investigation, or who, without an order from the office of the  
23           district medical examiner, willfully touches, removes, or  
24           disturbs the body, clothing, or any article upon or near the  
25           body, with the intent to alter the evidence or circumstances  
26           surrounding the death, commits ~~shall be guilty of a felony~~  
27           ~~misdemeanor~~ of the third ~~first~~ degree, punishable as provided in  
28           s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

29           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.