

## **CS/CS/SB 1152 — Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services Act**

by Regulated Industries Committee; Banking and Insurance Committee; and Senators Bennett and Negron

Current law requires a state license to provide services as a funeral director or embalmer. This bill allows persons wishing to obtain a funeral director license to take courses in funeral service arts in substitution of the currently required courses in mortuary science. Mortuary science courses are required for learning the process of embalming, which funeral director licensees are not permitted to practice without an additional license. This bill gives applicants for a funeral director license an option to take either mortuary science or funeral service arts courses in order to obtain a license.

This bill also requires that the director in charge of a funeral establishment must be licensed as an embalmer or licensed with a combination embalmer and funeral director license. However, the bill provides a grandfather provision to allow funeral directors currently serving as the full time funeral director in charge of a funeral facility to continue to do so, provided they meet certain requirements.

To prepare the state for a catastrophe that may leave an overwhelming number of deceased persons, this bill provides for certain waivers and modifications to the funeral services licensure requirements of ch. 497, F.S., in the event of a declared state of emergency. It modifies health and safety education requirements for licensees and requirements for preneed contracts. The bill also requires monument establishments to provide proof of liability insurance as required by law.

Finally, the bill amends the priority list for persons who are authorized to direct the disposition of human remains when a family member dies. For members of the U.S. military the bill adds to the priority list a person who the deceased service person identified on a Department of Defense form as the designee to direct the disposition of their remains if they die while serving.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2010.

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 116-0*