
HOUSE BILL 2025

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

Read first time 02/06/15. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to the sale and commercial display of human
2 remains; amending RCW 68.50.130; creating a new section; prescribing
3 penalties; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The sale or commercial display of human
6 remains is offensive to community standards of decency. The public
7 outcry against the sale and display of Native American remains
8 reminds us of the basic dignity that all human remains should be
9 granted. The legislature through this act does not intend to prevent
10 legitimate medical or educational endeavors and believes the
11 respectful treatment and disposal of human remains is compatible with
12 those aims. The legislature does intend to prohibit the sale for
13 profit of human remains and any commercial display for advertising or
14 other benefit.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 68.50.130 and 2005 c 365 s 139 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Every person who performs a disposition of any human remains,
18 except as otherwise provided by law, in any place, except in a
19 cemetery or a building dedicated exclusively for religious purposes,
20 is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person who sells or commercially

1 displays human remains is guilty of a class C felony. Disposition of
2 cremated human remains may also occur on private property, with the
3 consent of the property owner; and on public or government lands or
4 waters with the approval of the government agency that has either
5 jurisdiction or control, or both, of the lands or waters.

6 (2) Nothing in this section prohibits the possession of human
7 remains by authorized search and rescue personnel for the purpose of
8 training human remains detection canines. For the purposes of this
9 subsection, "authorized search and rescue personnel" means personnel
10 registered as emergency workers with their county's department of
11 emergency management who deploy at the direction of law enforcement
12 agencies.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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