

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261**

Chapter 221, Laws of 2016

64th Legislature  
2016 Regular Session

HUMAN REMAINS--VARIOUS PROVISIONS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/9/2016

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2016  
Yeas 47 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House March 4, 2016  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 1, 2016 4:51 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

**Secretary**

FILED

April 4, 2016

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session**

**By Senate Law & Justice** (originally sponsored by Senators Padden, Pedersen, and Miloscia)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1            AN ACT Relating to human remains; amending RCW 68.50.050 and  
2 68.50.020; and prescribing penalties.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.050 and 2011 c 96 s 48 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            (1) Any person, not authorized or directed by the coroner or  
7 ((his)) medical examiner or ((her)) their deputies, who removes the  
8 body of a deceased person not claimed by a relative or friend, or  
9 ((who came to their death by reason of violence or from unnatural  
10 causes or where there shall exist reasonable grounds for the belief  
11 that such death has been caused by unlawful means at the hands of  
12 another)) moves, disturbs, molests, or interferes with the human  
13 remains coming within the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical  
14 examiner as set forth in RCW 68.50.010, to any undertaking rooms or  
15 elsewhere, or any person who knowingly directs, aids, or abets such  
16 unauthorized moving, disturbing, molesting, or taking, and any person  
17 who ((in any way)) knowingly conceals the ((body of a deceased person  
18 for the purpose of taking the same to any undertaking rooms or  
19 elsewhere)) human remains, shall in each of said cases be guilty of a  
20 gross misdemeanor ((and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by  
21 fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the

1 ~~county jail for up to three hundred sixty four days or by both fine~~  
2 ~~and imprisonment in the discretion of the court)).~~

3 (2) In evaluating whether it is necessary to retain jurisdiction  
4 and custody of human remains under RCW 68.50.010, 68.50.645, and  
5 27.44.055, the coroner or medical examiner shall consider the  
6 deceased's religious beliefs, if known, including the tenets,  
7 customs, or rites related to death and burial.

8 (3) For purposes of this section and unless the context clearly  
9 requires otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined  
10 in RCW 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to,  
11 skeletal remains.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 68.50.020 and 1987 c 331 s 55 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 It shall be the duty of every person who knows of the existence  
15 and location of ((a dead body)) human remains coming under the  
16 jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW  
17 68.50.010 or 27.44.055, to notify the coroner, medical examiner, or  
18 law enforcement thereof in the most expeditious manner possible,  
19 unless such person shall have good reason to believe that such notice  
20 has already been given. Any person knowing of the existence of such  
21 ((dead body)) human remains and not having good reason to believe  
22 that the coroner has notice thereof and who shall fail to give notice  
23 to the coroner as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For  
24 purposes of this section and unless the context clearly requires  
25 otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
26 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to,  
27 skeletal remains.

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2016.

Passed by the House March 4, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 1, 2016.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 4, 2016.