
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2429

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Karahalios, Johanson and Wineberry)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to funerals; and amending RCW 74.08.120.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08.120 and 1992 c 108 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 The term "funeral" shall mean the mortuary services needed for the
6 proper preparation, preservation, and care of the remains of a deceased
7 person with needed facilities and appropriate memorial services.
8 "Transportation" shall mean transport of a body from place of death to
9 mortuary and transportation to place of disposition, within the service
10 area defined by the department. "Disposition" includes necessary costs
11 of a burial and cemetery plot or cremation and disposition site, and
12 all services related to interment and the minimal memorial marking of
13 a grave.

14 The department (~~is hereby authorized to assume~~) shall, by
15 December 31, 1994, review and make recommendations to determine the
16 feasibility of assuming responsibility for payment for the funeral,
17 transportation, and disposition of deceased persons dying without
18 assets sufficient to pay for the minimum standard services herein
19 provided(~~(: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That)~~). In the review, the department

1 shall consult with the Washington state funeral directors association,
2 the state board of funeral directors and embalmers, the Washington
3 internment association, the state cemetery board, the Washington
4 cremation association, and the Washington association of county
5 officials, as well as other interested parties. However, the secretary
6 may furnish funeral assistance for deceased recipients if they leave
7 assets to either a surviving spouse (~~(and/or)~~) or to minor children, or
8 both, and if the assets are resources permitted to be owned by or
9 available to an eligible applicant or recipient under RCW 74.04.005,
10 and the department shall thereby have a lien against said assets as
11 provided in RCW 43.20B.120. If the deceased person is survived by a
12 spouse or is a minor child survived by his parent or parents, the
13 department may take into consideration the assets of such surviving
14 spouse, parent, or parents in determining whether or not the department
15 will assume responsibility for the funeral, or disposition costs.

16 The department shall not pay more than cost for a minimum standard
17 service rendered by each vendor. Payments to the funeral director and
18 to the cemetery or crematorium will be made by separate vouchers. The
19 standard of such services and the uniform amounts to be paid shall be
20 determined by the department after giving due consideration to such
21 advice and counsel as it shall obtain from the trade associations of
22 the various vendors and related state departments, agencies, and
23 commissions. Payment made for any funeral, transportation, or burial
24 service by relatives, friends, or any other third party above a
25 donation level established by the department shall be subtracted from
26 the payment made by the department.

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