

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1974

Chapter 57, Laws of 2024

68th Legislature
2024 Regular Session

DISPOSITION OF HUMAN REMAINS—COUNTIES

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 6, 2024

Passed by the House February 9, 2024
Yeas 97 Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate February 28,
2024
Yeas 49 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

President of the Senate

Approved March 13, 2024 1:57 PM

JAY INSLEE

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1974** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

Chief Clerk

FILED

March 14, 2024

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1974

Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session

By House Civil Rights & Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Abbarno, Bronoske, and Doglio)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1 AN ACT Relating to the disposition of human remains; and
2 reenacting and amending RCW 68.50.230.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.230 and 2009 c 102 s 20 and 2009 c 56 s 1 are
5 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Whenever any human remains shall have been in the lawful
7 possession of any person, firm, corporation, county, or association
8 for a period of (~~ninety~~) 45 days or more, and the relatives of, or
9 persons interested in, the deceased person shall fail, neglect, or
10 refuse to direct the disposition, the human remains may be disposed
11 of by the person, firm, corporation, county, or association having
12 such lawful possession thereof, under and in accordance with rules
13 adopted by the funeral and cemetery board, not inconsistent with any
14 statute of the state of Washington or rule adopted by the state board
15 of health.

16 (2)(a) The department of veterans affairs may certify that the
17 deceased person to whom subsection (1) of this section applies was a
18 veteran or the dependent of a veteran eligible for interment at a
19 federal or state veterans' cemetery.

20 (b) Upon certification of eligible veteran or dependent of a
21 veteran status under (a) of this subsection, the person, firm,

1 corporation, county, or association in possession of the veteran's or
2 veteran's dependent's remains shall transfer the custody and control
3 of the remains to the department of veterans affairs.

4 (c) The transfer of human remains under (b) of this subsection
5 does not create:

6 (i) A private right of action against the state or its officers
7 and employees or instrumentalities, or against any person, firm,
8 corporation, county, or association transferring the remains; or

9 (ii) Liability on behalf of the state, the state's officers,
10 employees, or instrumentalities; or on behalf of the person, firm,
11 corporation, county, or association transferring the remains.

Passed by the House February 9, 2024.
Passed by the Senate February 28, 2024.
Approved by the Governor March 13, 2024.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 14, 2024.

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