

HOUSE BILL NO. 593

1/31 Introduced
1/31 Referred to Business & labor
2/12 Hearing
2/14 Adverse Committee Report
2/15 Bill Killed

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 593
 2 INTRODUCTION BY Menahan
 3 BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF MORTICIANS
 4

5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROMPT
 6 REFRIGERATION OR EMBALMING OF HUMAN REMAINS AND TO REQUIRE
 7 ORDERLY CREMATION OF HUMAN REMAINS."
 8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Purpose. The legislature finds that certain
 11 practices in storing human remains and in performing
 12 cremations violate common notions of decency and generally
 13 held expectations. In enacting [sections 1 through 4], the
 14 legislature is reaffirming that certain practices, which
 15 have never been acceptable, violate principles of human
 16 dignity.

17 Section 2. Prompt refrigeration or embalming of human
 18 remains. Any person authorized to dispose of human remains
 19 must refrigerate or embalm the body within 24 hours. Upon
 20 written authorization of the proper state or local
 21 authority, the provisions of this section may be waived for
 22 a specified period of time.

23 Section 3. Provision of embalming services without
 24 charge. If a person authorized to dispose of human remains
 25 does not have refrigeration units, embalming services must

1 be provided without charge.

2 Section 4. Orderly cremation of human remains. (1) A
 3 person authorized to dispose of human remains may not
 4 cremate or cause to be cremated more than one body at a time
 5 unless written permission has been received from the person
 6 or persons having the authority to order cremation.

7 (2) The board may adopt rules specifying the identity
 8 of persons having authority to order cremation and
 9 specifying the circumstances under which and the form in
 10 which written authority must be given to order cremation of
 11 more than one body at a time.

12 Section 5. Codification instruction. This act is
 13 intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 37,
 14 chapter 19, and the provisions of Title 37, chapter 19,
 15 apply to this act.

-End-

