



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6602

LCO No. 3514



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND FUNERAL HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Public
2 Health shall provide all funeral directors licensed pursuant to chapter
3 385 of the general statutes, including such funeral directors who operate
4 out-of-state funeral homes or funeral service businesses, equal access to
5 the electronic death registry system.

6 Sec. 2. Section 20-221 of the general statutes is repealed and the
7 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

8 Each [holder of a funeral director's license issued in accordance with
9 the provisions of this chapter] licensed funeral director, who becomes
10 an owner or part owner of an establishment, shall comply with the
11 requirements and provisions of section 20-222, as amended by this act,
12 and, in addition thereto, shall employ a full-time licensed embalmer.
13 The provisions of this section shall not apply to (1) an embalmer licensed
14 by the Department of Public Health who is a member of the firm,
15 partnership or corporation operating a funeral service business,

16 provided the funeral service business shall comply with all the
17 provisions of section 20-222, as amended by this act, or (2) a licensed
18 funeral director, who becomes an owner or part owner of a funeral
19 home, funeral service business or other establishment that is not
20 engaged in the practice of embalming.

21 Sec. 3. Section 20-222 of the general statutes is repealed and the
22 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

23 (a) No person, firm, partnership or corporation shall enter into,
24 engage in, or carry on a funeral service business unless a funeral home
25 license has been issued by the department for each place of business.
26 Any person, firm, partnership or corporation desiring to engage in the
27 funeral service business shall submit, in writing, to the department an
28 application upon blanks furnished by the department for a funeral
29 home license for a funeral service business for each place of business,
30 and each such application shall be accompanied by a fee of three
31 hundred seventy-five dollars and shall identify the manager. Each
32 holder of a funeral home license shall, annually, on or before July first,
33 submit in writing to the Department of Public Health an application for
34 renewal of such certificate together with a fee of one hundred ninety
35 dollars. If the Department of Public Health issues to such applicant such
36 a funeral home license, the same shall be valid until July first next
37 following, unless revoked or suspended.

38 (b) Upon receipt of an initial application for a funeral home license,
39 and annually thereafter, the Department of Public Health shall make an
40 inspection of each building or part thereof wherein a funeral service
41 business is conducted or is intended to be conducted, and satisfactory
42 proof shall be furnished the Department of Public Health that the
43 building or part thereof, in which it is intended to conduct the funeral
44 service business, contains an adequate sanitary preparation room
45 equipped with tile, cement or composition flooring, necessary
46 ventilation, sink, and hot and cold running water, sewage facilities, and
47 such instruments and supplies for the preparing or embalming of dead
48 human bodies for burial, transportation or other disposition as the

49 Commissioner of Public Health, with advice and assistance from the
50 board, deems necessary and suitable for the conduct and maintenance
51 of such business.

52 (c) Any person, firm, partnership or corporation desiring to change
53 its place of business shall notify the Department of Public Health thirty
54 days in advance of such change, and a fee of twenty-five dollars shall
55 accompany the application for the funeral home license of the new
56 premises. Any person, firm, partnership or corporation desiring to
57 change its manager shall notify the Department of Public Health thirty
58 days in advance of such change, on a form prescribed by the
59 Commissioner of Public Health.

60 (d) The building or part thereof in which is conducted or intended to
61 be conducted any funeral service business shall be open at all times for
62 inspection by the board or the Department of Public Health. The
63 Department of Public Health may make inspections whenever it deems
64 advisable.

65 (e) If, upon inspection by the Department of Public Health, it is found
66 that such building, equipment or instruments are in such an unsanitary
67 condition as to be detrimental to public health, the board shall give to
68 the applicant or operator of the funeral service business notice and
69 opportunity for hearing as provided in the regulations adopted by the
70 Commissioner of Public Health. At any such hearing, the Commissioner
71 of Public Health or his designee shall be considered a member of the
72 board and entitled to a vote. The board, or the Department of Public
73 Health or his designee acting upon the board's finding or determination,
74 may, after such hearing, revoke or refuse to issue or renew any such
75 funeral home license upon cause found after hearing. Any person
76 aggrieved by the finding of said board or action taken by the
77 Department of Public Health may appeal therefrom in accordance with
78 the provisions of section 4-183.

79 (f) Any of the inspections provided for in this section may be made
80 by a person designated by the Department of Public Health or by a

81 representative of the Commissioner of Public Health.

82 (g) Any person, firm, partnership or corporation engaged in the
83 funeral service business shall maintain at the address of record of the
84 funeral service business identified on the funeral home license the
85 following:

86 (1) All records relating to contracts for funeral services, prepaid
87 funeral service contracts or escrow accounts for a period of not less than
88 six years after the death of the individual for whom funeral services
89 were provided;

90 (2) Copies of all death certificates, burial permits, authorizations for
91 cremation, documentation of receipt of cremated remains and written
92 agreements used in making arrangements for final disposition of dead
93 human bodies, including, but not limited to, copies of the final bill and
94 other written evidence of agreement or obligation furnished to
95 consumers, for a period of not less than six years after such final
96 disposition; and

97 (3) Copies of price lists, for a period of not less than six years from the
98 last date such lists were distributed to consumers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	20-221
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	20-222

Statement of Purpose:

To (1) give equal access to the electronic death registry system to funeral directors licensed in the state who have an out-of-state facility, (2) increase the availability of funeral services by allowing licensed funeral directors to not employ a full-time licensed embalmer if such funeral director is not the owner or part-owner of a funeral home, funeral service business or other establishment engaged in the practice of embalming, and (3) ensure healthy and safe practices in funeral homes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]