

Jen Plumb proposes the following substitute bill:

Funeral Services Licensing Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jen Plumb

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions relating to funeral services licensing.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends provisions relating to the final placement of remains;
 - removes the option for an oral preneed funeral agreement;
 - removes the requirement that a funeral service establishment receive a receipt before releasing remains from alkaline hydrolysis and cremation; and
 - makes technical changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

- 58-9-102**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 354
 - 58-9-611**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 326
 - 58-9-613**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 111
 - 58-9-614**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 326
 - 58-9-617**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 326
 - 58-9-618**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 326

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **58-9-102** is amended to read:

58-9-102 . Definitions.

29 [In addition to the definitions in Section 58-1-102, as] As used in this chapter:

30 (1)(a) "Alkaline hydrolysis" means a water-based dissolution process using alkaline
31 chemicals, heat, and sometimes agitation or pressure that reduces human remains to a
32 liquid and to dry bone residue[and].

33 (b) "Alkaline hydrolysis" includes the disposal of the liquid and the processing and
34 pulverization of the dry bone residue.

35 (2) "Alkaline hydrolysis chamber" means the enclosed space within which the alkaline
36 hydrolysis process takes place and that is used exclusively for alkaline hydrolysis of
37 human remains.

38 (3) "Alkaline hydrolysis container" means a container:

39 (a) in which human remains are transported to a funeral service establishment and
40 placed in an alkaline hydrolysis chamber for [resomation] the alkaline hydrolysis
41 process; and

42 (b) that meets substantially all of the following standards:

- 43 (i) able to be closed in order to provide a complete covering for the human remains;
44 (ii) resistant to leakage or spillage;
45 (iii) rigid enough for handling with ease; and
46 (iv) able to provide protection for the health, safety, and personal integrity of
47 crematory personnel.

48 (4) "Authorizing agent" means a person legally entitled to authorize the cremation or the
49 alkaline hydrolysis process of human remains.

50 (5) "Beneficiary" means the individual who, at the time of the individual's death, [is to
51 receive] receives the benefit of the property and services purchased under a preneed
52 funeral arrangement.

53 (6) "Board" means the Board of Funeral Service created in Section 58-9-201.

54 (7) "Body part" means:

55 (a) a limb or other portion of the anatomy that is removed from [a person] an individual
56 or human remains for medical purposes during treatment, surgery, biopsy, autopsy, or
57 medical research; or

58 (b) a human body or any portion of a body that has been donated to science for medical
59 research purposes.

60 (8) "Buyer" means a person who purchases a preneed funeral arrangement.

61 (9) "Calcination" means a process in which a dead human body is reduced by intense heat
62 to a residue that is not as substantive as the residue that follows cremation.

63 (10) "Cremated remains" means all the remains of a cremated body recovered after the
64 completion of the cremation process, including pulverization [which] that leaves only
65 bone fragments reduced to unidentifiable dimensions and may possibly include the
66 residue of foreign matter including casket material, bridgework, or eyeglasses that were
67 cremated with the human remains.

68 (11)(a) "Cremation" means the technical process, using direct flame and heat, or a
69 chemical process, that reduces human remains to bone fragments through heat and
70 evaporation, or a chemical process[~~, and~~].

71 (b) "Cremation" includes the processing and usually the pulverization of the bone
72 fragments.

73 (12) "Cremation chamber" means the enclosed space within which the cremation process
74 takes place and which is used exclusively for the cremation of human remains.

75 (13) "Cremation container" means the container:

76 (a) in which the human remains are transported to the crematory and placed in the
77 cremation chamber for cremation; and
78 (b) that meets substantially all of the following standards:
79 (i) composed of readily combustible or consumable materials suitable for cremation;
80 (ii) able to be closed in order to provide a complete covering for the human remains;
81 (iii) resistant to leakage or spillage;
82 (iv) rigid enough for handling with ease; and
83 (v) able to provide protection for the health, safety, and personal integrity of
84 crematory personnel.

85 (14) "Crematory" means the building or portion of a building that houses the cremation
86 chamber and the holding facility.

87 (15) "Direct disposition" means the disposition of a dead human body:

88 (a) as quickly as law allows;
89 (b) without preparation of the body by embalming; and
90 (c) without an attendant funeral service or graveside service.

91 (16) "Disposition" means the final disposal of a dead human body by:

92 (a) earth interment;
93 (b) above ground burial;
94 (c) cremation;
95 (d) calcination;
96 (e) alkaline hydrolysis;

97 (f) burial at sea;

98 (g) delivery to a medical institution; or

99 (h) other lawful means.

100 (17) "Embalming" means replacing body fluids in a dead human body with preserving and
101 disinfecting chemicals.

102 (18) "Final placement of remains" means, if a disposition yields any remaining residual
103 matter as a direct result of the disposition, the final storage, placement, or other manner
104 of disposing of the remaining residual matter.

105 [(18)] (19)(a) "Funeral merchandise" means any of the following into which a dead
106 human body is placed in connection with the transportation or disposition of the body:

107 (i) a vault;

108 (ii) a casket; or

109 (iii) other personal property.

110 (b) "Funeral merchandise" does not include:

111 (i) a mausoleum crypt;

112 (ii) an interment receptacle preset in a cemetery; or

113 (iii) a columbarium niche.

114 [(19)] (20) "Funeral service" means a service, rite, or ceremony performed:

115 (a) with respect to the death of a human; and

116 (b) with the body of the deceased present.

117 [(20)] (21) "Funeral service director" means an individual licensed under this chapter who
118 may engage in all lawful professional activities regulated and defined under the practice
119 of funeral service.

120 [(21)] (22)(a) "Funeral service establishment" means a place of business at a specific
121 street address or location licensed under this chapter that is devoted to:

122 (i) the embalming, care, custody, shelter, preparation for burial, and final disposition
123 or final placement of remains of dead human bodies; and

124 (ii) the furnishing of services, merchandise, and products purchased from the
125 establishment as a preneed provider under a preneed funeral arrangement.

126 (b) "Funeral service establishment" includes:

127 (i) all portions of the business premises and all tools, instruments, and supplies used
128 in the preparation and embalming of dead human bodies for [burial, cremation,
129 alkaline hydrolysis, and final disposition as defined by division rule] disposition;
130 and

- (ii) a facility used by the business in which funeral services may be conducted.

[~~(22)~~] (23) "Funeral service intern" means an individual licensed under this chapter who is permitted to:

 - (a) assist a funeral service director in the embalming or other preparation of a dead human body for disposition;
 - (b) assist a funeral service director in the cremation, calcination, alkaline hydrolysis, or pulverization of a dead human body or [its] the body's remains; and
 - (c) perform other funeral service activities under the supervision of a funeral service director.

[~~(23)~~] (24) "Graveside service" means a funeral service held at the location of [disposition] an earth interment.

[~~(24)~~] (25) "Memorial service" means a service, rite, or ceremony performed:

 - (a) with respect to the death of a human; and
 - (b) without the body of the deceased present.

[~~(25)~~] (26) "Practice of funeral service" means:

 - (a) supervising the receipt of custody and transportation of a dead human body to prepare the body for:
 - (i) disposition; or
 - (ii) shipment to another location;
 - (b) entering into a contract with a person to provide professional services regulated under this chapter;
 - (c) embalming or otherwise preparing a dead human body for disposition;
 - (d) supervising the arrangement or conduct of:
 - (i) a funeral service;
 - (ii) a graveside service; or
 - (iii) a memorial service;
 - (e) cremation, calcination, alkaline hydrolysis, or pulverization of a dead human body or the body's remains;
 - (f) supervising the arrangement of:
 - (i) a disposition; or
 - (ii) a direct disposition;
 - (g) facilitating:
 - (i) a disposition; or
 - (ii) a direct disposition;

- 165 (h) supervising the sale of funeral merchandise by a funeral establishment;
166 (i) managing or otherwise being responsible for the practice of funeral service in a
167 licensed funeral service establishment;
168 (j) supervising the sale of a preneed funeral arrangement; and
169 (k) contracting with or employing individuals to sell a preneed funeral arrangement.

170 [~~(26)~~] (27)(a) "Preneed funeral arrangement" means a written [or oral]agreement sold in
171 advance of the death of the beneficiary under which a person agrees with a buyer to
172 provide at the death of the beneficiary any of the following as are typically provided
173 in connection with a disposition:

- 174 (i) goods;
175 (ii) services, including:
176 (A) embalming services; and
177 (B) funeral directing services;
178 (iii) real property; or
179 (iv) personal property, including:
180 (A) a casket;
181 (B) another primary container;
182 (C) a cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or transportation container;
183 (D) an outer burial container;
184 (E) a vault;
185 (F) a grave liner;
186 (G) funeral clothing and accessories;
187 (H) a monument;
188 (I) a grave marker; and
189 (J) a cremation or alkaline hydrolysis urn.

190 (b) "Preneed funeral arrangement" does not include a policy or product of life insurance
191 providing a death benefit cash payment upon the death of the beneficiary [~~whichthat
192 is not limited to providing the products or services described in Subsection [~~(26)~~(a)]
193 (27)(a).~~

194 [~~(27)~~] (28) "Processing" means the reduction of identifiable bone fragments after the
195 completion of the cremation or the alkaline hydrolysis process to unidentifiable bone
196 fragments by manual means.

197 [~~(28)~~] (29) "Pulverization" means the reduction of identifiable bone fragments after the
198 completion of the cremation or alkaline hydrolysis and processing to granulated particles

199 by manual or mechanical means.

200 [~~(29) "Resomation" means the alkaline hydrolysis process.~~]

201 (30) "Sales agent" means an individual licensed under this chapter as a preneed funeral
202 arrangement sales agent.

203 (31) "Temporary container" means a receptacle for cremated or alkaline hydrolysis remains
204 usually made of cardboard, plastic, or similar material designed to hold the cremated
205 remains until an urn or other permanent container is acquired.

206 (32) "Unlawful conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Sections 58-1-501 and
207 58-9-501.

208 (33) "Unprofessional conduct" means the same as that term is defined in Sections 58-1-501
209 and 58-9-502.

210 (34) "Urn" means a receptacle designed to permanently encase cremated or alkaline
211 hydrolysis remains.

212 Section 2. Section **58-9-611** is amended to read:

213 **58-9-611 . Final placement of remains from cremation.**

214 (1)(a) An authorizing agent shall provide the person with whom cremation arrangements
215 are made with a signed statement specifying the final ~~[disposition]~~ placement of the
216 remains from cremation~~[cremated remains]~~, if known.

217 (b) The funeral services establishment shall retain a copy of the statement.

218 (2)(a) The authorizing agent is responsible for the ~~[disposition of the cremated remains]~~
219 final placement of remains from cremation.

220 (b) If the authorizing agent or the agent's representative has not specified the ~~[ultimate~~
221 ~~disposition]~~ final placement of remains from cremation or claimed the cremated
222 remains within 60 days ~~[from the date of the cremation]~~ after the day on which the
223 cremation occurs, the funeral service establishment may ~~[dispose of the remains]~~
224 conduct the final placement of remains in any manner permitted by law, except
225 scattering.

226 (c) The authorizing agent shall reimburse the funeral services establishment for all
227 reasonable costs incurred in disposing of the cremated remains under Subsection
228 (2)(b).

229 (d) The person or entity ~~[disposing of cremated remains]~~ conducting the final placement
230 of remains from cremation under this section:

231 (i) shall make and keep a record of the ~~[disposition of the remains]~~ final placement of
232 remains; and

- 233 (ii) is discharged from any legal obligation or liability concerning the remains once
234 the [disposition has been made] person conducts the final placement of remains.
235 (e) Subsection (2)(d)(ii) applies to cremated remains in the possession of a funeral
236 services establishment or other responsible party as of May 5, 2008, or any time after
237 that date.
238 (3)(a) An authorizing agent may direct a funeral service establishment to [dispose of]
239 conduct the final placement of remains or arrange for the[disposition of cremated
240 remains] final placement of remains from cremation:

- 241 (i) in a crypt, niche, grave, or scattering garden located in a dedicated cemetery;
242 (ii) by scattering the cremated remains over uninhabited public land, the sea, or other
243 public waterways subject to health and environmental laws and regulations; or
244 (iii) in any manner on the private property of a consenting owner.
245 (b) If [~~cremated remains are to be disposed of~~] the authorizing agent intends to conduct
246 the final placement of remains on private property, other than dedicated cemetery
247 property, the authorizing agent shall provide the funeral service establishment with
248 the written consent of the property owner [~~prior to disposal of the remains~~] before the
249 final placement of remains.
250 (c) In order to scatter cremated remains under Subsection (3)(a)(ii) or (iii), the remains
251 must be reduced to a particle size of one-eighth inch or less and removed from [~~their~~]
252 the remains' closed container.
253 [(4) A funeral service establishment may not release cremated remains for scattering under
254 this section to the authorizing agent or the agent's designated representative until the
255 funeral service establishment is given a receipt that shows the proper filing has been
256 made with the local registrar of births and deaths.]

257 Section 3. Section **58-9-613** is amended to read:

258 **58-9-613 . Authorization for alkaline hydrolysis -- Penalties for removal of items
259 from human remains.**

- 260 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a funeral service establishment may not
261 perform alkaline hydrolysis on human remains until the funeral service establishment
262 has received:
263 (a) an alkaline hydrolysis authorization form signed by an authorizing agent;
264 (b) a completed and executed burial transit permit or similar document, as provided by
265 state law, indicating that disposition of the human remains is to be by alkaline
266 hydrolysis; and

- 267 (c) any other documentation required by the state, county, or municipality.
- 268 (2)(a) The alkaline hydrolysis authorization form shall contain, at a minimum, the
269 following information:
- 270 (i) the identity of the human remains and the time and date of death, including a
271 signed declaration of visual identification of the deceased or refusal to visually
272 identify the deceased;
- 273 (ii) the name of the funeral director and funeral service establishment that obtained
274 the alkaline hydrolysis authorization;
- 275 (iii) notification as to whether the death occurred from a disease declared by the
276 Department of Health and Human Services to be infectious, contagious,
277 communicable, or dangerous to the public health;
- 278 (iv) the name of the authorizing agent and the relationship between the authorizing
279 agent and the decedent;
- 280 (v) a representation that the authorizing agent has the right to authorize the
281 disposition of the decedent by alkaline hydrolysis and that the authorizing agent is
282 not aware of any living [person] individual with a superior or equal priority right to
283 that of the authorizing agent, except that if there is another living [person]
284 individual with a superior or equal priority right, the alkaline hydrolysis
285 authorization form shall contain a representation that the authorizing agent has:
286 (A) made reasonable efforts to contact that [person] individual;
287 (B) been unable to do so; and
288 (C) no reason to believe that the [person] individual would object to the disposition
289 of the decedent by alkaline hydrolysis;
- 290 (vi) authorization for the funeral service establishment to use alkaline hydrolysis for
291 the disposition of the human remains;
- 292 (vii) the name of the person authorized to receive the human remains from the funeral
293 service establishment;
- 294 (viii) the manner in which the final [disposition of the human remains] placement of
295 remains is to take place, if known;
- 296 (ix) a listing of each item of value to be delivered to the funeral service establishment
297 along with the human remains, and instructions as to how each item should be
298 handled;
- 299 (x) the signature of the authorizing agent, attesting to the accuracy of all
300 representations contained on the alkaline hydrolysis authorization form;

301 (xi) if the alkaline hydrolysis authorization form is being executed on a preneed
302 basis, the disclosure required for preneed programs under this chapter; and
303 (xii) except for a preneed alkaline hydrolysis authorization, the signature of the
304 funeral director of the funeral service establishment that obtained the alkaline
305 hydrolysis authorization.

- 306 (b)(i) The [person] individual referred to in Subsection (2)(a)(xii) shall execute the
307 alkaline hydrolysis authorization form as a witness and is not responsible for any
308 of the representations made by the authorizing agent.
309 (ii) The funeral director or the funeral service establishment shall warrant that the
310 human remains delivered to the funeral service establishment have been positively
311 identified by the authorizing agent or a designated representative of the
312 authorizing agent as the decedent listed on the alkaline hydrolysis authorization
313 form.
314 (iii) The authorizing agent or the agent's designee may make the identification
315 referred to in Subsection (2)(b)(ii) in person or by photograph.

- 316 (3)(a) A funeral service establishment may not accept unidentified human remains for
317 alkaline hydrolysis.
318 (b) If a funeral service establishment takes custody of an alkaline hydrolysis container [
319 ~~subsequent to~~] after the human remains [being] were placed within the container, the
320 funeral service establishment can rely on the identification made before the remains
321 were placed in the container.
322 (c) The funeral service establishment shall place appropriate identification on the
323 exterior of the alkaline hydrolysis container based on the prior identification.

- 324 (4)(a) A person who removes or possesses dental gold or silver, jewelry, or mementos
325 from human remains:
326 (i) with purpose to deprive another over control of the property is guilty of an offense
327 and subject to the punishments provided in Section 76-6-404;
328 (ii) with purpose to exercise unauthorized control and with intent to temporarily
329 deprive another of control over the property is guilty of an offense and subject to
330 the punishments provided in Section 76-6-404.5; and
331 (iii) under circumstances not amounting to Subsection (4)(a)(i) or (ii) and without
332 specific written permission of the individual who has the right to control those
333 remains is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.
334 (b) The fact that residue or any unavoidable dental gold or dental silver or other precious

335 metals remain in alkaline hydrolysis equipment or a container used in a prior alkaline
336 hydrolysis process is not a violation of Subsection (4)(a).

337 Section 4. Section **58-9-614** is amended to read:

338 **58-9-614 . Recordkeeping.**

339 (1)(a) A funeral service establishment shall furnish to the [person] individual who
340 delivers human remains to the establishment for alkaline hydrolysis a receipt signed
341 by a representative of the establishment and the [person] individual making the
342 delivery, showing:
343 (i) the date and time of the delivery;
344 (ii) the type of casket or alternative container delivered;
345 (iii) the name of the [person] individual from whom the human remains were received;
346 (iv) the name of the funeral establishment or other entity with whom the person
347 making the delivery is affiliated;
348 (v) the name of the [person] individual who received the human remains on behalf of
349 the funeral service establishment; and
350 (vi) the name of the decedent.

351 (b) The funeral service establishment shall keep a copy of the receipt in the funeral
352 service establishment's permanent records for a period of seven years.

353 (2)(a) Upon release of human remains after alkaline hydrolysis, a funeral service
354 establishment shall furnish to the [person] individual who receives the human remains
355 a receipt signed by a representative of the funeral service establishment and the [
356 person] individual who receives the human remains, showing:

357 (i) the date and time of the release;
358 (ii) the name of the person to whom the human remains were released; and
359 (iii) if applicable:
360 (A) the name of the funeral establishment, cemetery, or other entity with whom
361 the person receiving the human remains is affiliated;
362 (B) the name of the person who released the human remains on behalf of the
363 funeral service establishment; and
364 (C) the name of the decedent.

365 (b)(i) The receipt shall contain a representation from the person receiving the human
366 remains confirming that the remains will not be used for any improper purpose.
367 (ii) Upon release of the human remains, the person to whom the human remains were
368 released may transport the human remains in any manner in the state, without a

369 permit, and [dispose of the human remains] conduct the final placement of remains
370 in accordance with this chapter.

371 (c) The funeral service establishment shall retain a copy of the receipt in the funeral
372 service establishment's permanent records for a period of seven years.

373 (3)(a) The funeral service establishment shall maintain at the funeral service
374 establishment's place of business a permanent record of each disposition by alkaline
375 hydrolysis that took place at the funeral service establishment.

376 (b) The permanent record shall contain:

- 377 (i) the name of the decedent;
378 (ii) the date of disposition by alkaline hydrolysis;
379 (iii) the [final disposition of the human remains] final placement of remains; and
380 (iv) any other document required by this chapter.

381 Section 5. Section **58-9-617** is amended to read:

58-9-617 . Final placement of remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process.

382 (1)(a) An authorizing agent shall provide the person with whom the authorizing agent
383 makes alkaline hydrolysis arrangements [are made with] a signed statement
384 specifying the final [disposition] placement of [the-]remains from the alkaline
385 hydrolysis process, if known.

386 (b) The funeral service establishment shall retain a copy of the statement.

387 (2)(a) The authorizing agent is responsible for the final [disposition] placement of [the-]
388 remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process.

389 (b) If the authorizing agent or the agent's representative has not specified the [ultimate
390 disposition of] final placement of remains or claimed the remains from the alkaline
391 hydrolysis process within 60 days [from the date of the alkaline hydrolysis process]
392 after the day on which the alkaline hydrolysis process occurs, the funeral service
393 establishment may [dispose of the remains] conduct the final placement of remains in
394 any manner permitted by law, except scattering.

395 (c) The authorizing agent shall reimburse the funeral service establishment for all
396 reasonable costs incurred in [disposing of the remains] conducting the final placement
397 of remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process under Subsection (2)(b).

398 (d) The person or entity [disposing of remains] conducting the final placement from the
399 alkaline hydrolysis process under this section:

- 400 (i) shall make and keep a record of the final [disposition] placement of [the-]remains;
401 and

403 (ii) is discharged from any legal obligation or liability concerning the remains once
404 the final [disposition] placement of remains has been made.

405 (3)(a) An authorizing agent may direct a funeral service establishment to [dispose of]
406 conduct the final placement of remains or arrange for the final [disposition] placement
407 of remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process:

- 408 (i) in a crypt, niche, grave, or scattering garden located in a dedicated cemetery;
409 (ii) by scattering the remains over uninhabited public land, the sea, or other public
410 waterways subject to health and environmental laws and regulations; or
411 (iii) in any manner on the private property of a consenting owner.

412 (b) If the authorizing agent intends to conduct the final placement of remains from the
413 alkaline hydrolysis process [are to be disposed of] on private property, other than
414 dedicated cemetery property, the authorizing agent shall provide the funeral service
415 establishment with the written consent of the property owner before [disposal] the
416 final placement of [the] remains.

417 (c) In order to scatter remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process under Subsection
418 (3)(a)(ii) or (iii), the remains must be reduced to a particle size of one-eighth inch or
419 less and removed from the remains' closed container.

420 [4) Under this section, a funeral service establishment may not release remains from the
421 alkaline hydrolysis process to the authorizing agent or the agent's designated
422 representative for scattering until the funeral service establishment is given a receipt that
423 shows the proper filing has been made with the local registrar of births and deaths.]

424 Section 6. Section **58-9-618** is amended to read:

425 **58-9-618 . Limitation of liability.**

426 (1) An authorizing agent who signs an alkaline hydrolysis authorization form warrants the
427 truthfulness of the facts set forth on the form, including:

428 (a) the identity of the deceased whose remains are to undergo the alkaline hydrolysis
429 process; and

430 (b) the authorizing agent's authority to order the alkaline hydrolysis process.

431 (2) A funeral service establishment may rely upon the representations made by an
432 authorizing agent under Subsection (1).

433 (3) The authorizing agent is personally and individually liable for all damage resulting from
434 a misstatement or misrepresentation made under Subsection (1).

435 (4)(a) A funeral service establishment may arrange for the alkaline hydrolysis process
436 upon receipt of an alkaline hydrolysis authorization form signed by an authorizing

437 agent.

438 (b) A funeral service establishment that arranges the alkaline hydrolysis process or
439 releases or [disposes of human] conducts the final placement of remains from the
440 alkaline hydrolysis process pursuant to an alkaline hydrolysis authorization form is
441 not liable for an action the funeral service establishment takes [pursuant to] in
442 accordance with that authorization.

443 (5) A funeral service establishment is not responsible or liable for any valuables delivered
444 to the establishment with human remains.

445 (6) A funeral service establishment may refuse to arrange for the alkaline hydrolysis
446 process of a decedent, to accept human remains for the alkaline hydrolysis process, or to
447 perform the alkaline hydrolysis process:

448 (a) if the funeral service establishment is aware of a dispute concerning the disposition
449 of the human remains and the funeral service establishment has not received a court
450 order or other suitable confirmation that the dispute has been resolved;
451 (b) if the funeral service establishment has a reasonable basis for questioning any of the
452 representations made by an authorizing agent; or
453 (c) for any other lawful reason.

454 (7)(a) If a funeral service establishment is aware of a dispute concerning the release or
455 disposition of remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process in the funeral service
456 establishment's possession, the establishment may refuse to release the remains until:
457 (i) the dispute has been resolved; or
458 (ii) the funeral service establishment has received a court order authorizing the
459 release or disposition of the remains.

460 (b) A funeral service establishment is not liable for its refusal to release or [dispose of
461 remains] conduct the final placement of remains from the alkaline hydrolysis process
462 in accordance with this Subsection (7).

463 **Section 7. Effective Date.**

464 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.