

---

HOUSE BILL 2328

---

State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1992 Regular Session

By Representatives Winsley and Silver

Read first time 01/15/92.      Referred to Committee on Financial  
Institutions & Insurance.

1            AN ACT Relating to the right of a person to control the disposition  
2 of the person's remains; and amending RCW 68.50.160.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.160 and 1943 c 247 s 29 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            A person has the right to control the disposition of his or her own  
7 remains without the predeath or postdeath consent of any other person.  
8 Any valid written document expressing the decedent's wishes regarding  
9 the disposition of his or her remains, signed by the decedent in the  
10 presence of a witness, is sufficient legal authorization for the  
11 procedures to be accomplished. If directions have not been given by  
12 the decedent, the right to control the disposition of the remains of a  
13 deceased person((, unless other directions have been given by the  
14 decedent,)) vests in, and the duty of interment and the liability for

1 the reasonable cost of interment of such remains devolves upon the  
2 following in the order named:

3 (1) The surviving spouse.

4 (2) The surviving children of the decedent.

5 (3) The surviving parents of the decedent.

6 The liability for the reasonable cost of interment devolves jointly  
7 and severally upon all kin of the decedent hereinbefore mentioned in  
8 the same degree of kindred and upon the estate of the decedent.