
HOUSE BILL 1195

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Sommers, Jacobsen, G. Cole, Johanson, J. Kohl and Leonard

Read first time 01/20/93. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the right of a person to control the disposition
2 of a 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 1992 c 108 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) A person has the right to control the disposition of his or her
7 own remains without the predeath or postdeath consent of another
8 person. A valid written document expressing the decedent's wishes
9 regarding the disposition of his or her remains, signed by the decedent
10 in the 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 disposition and the liability for
15 the reasonable cost of preparation, care, and disposition of such
16 remains devolves upon the following in the order named:

17 ((+1)) (a) The surviving spouse.

18 ((+2)) (b) The surviving children of the decedent.

19 ((+3)) (c) The surviving parents of the decedent.

1 (d) The surviving siblings of the decedent.
2 (2) The liability for the reasonable cost of preparation, care, and
3 disposition devolves jointly and severally upon all kin of the decedent
4 ((hereinbefore mentioned)) in the same degree of kindred, in the order
5 listed in subsection (1) of this section, and upon the estate of the
6 decedent.

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