
HOUSE BILL 2429

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Karahalios, Johanson and Wineberry

Read first time 01/14/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to funerals; and amending RCW 74.08.120.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08.120 and 1992 c 108 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 The term "funeral" shall mean the mortuary services needed for the
6 proper preparation, preservation, and care of the remains of a deceased
7 person with needed facilities and appropriate memorial services.
8 "Transportation" shall mean transport of a body from place of death to
9 mortuary and transportation to place of disposition, within the service
10 area defined by the department. "Disposition" includes necessary costs
11 of a burial and cemetery plot or cremation and disposition site, and
12 all services related to interment and the minimal memorial marking of
13 a grave.

14 The department (~~is hereby authorized to assume~~) shall, by
15 December 31, 1994, complete a study to determine the feasibility of
16 assuming responsibility for payment for the funeral, transportation,
17 and disposition of deceased persons dying without assets sufficient to
18 pay for the minimum standard services herein provided(~~(: PROVIDED,~~
19 ~~HOWEVER, That)~~). However, the secretary may furnish funeral assistance

1 for deceased recipients if they leave assets to either a surviving
2 spouse ((~~and/or~~)) or to minor children, or both, and if the assets are
3 resources permitted to be owned by or available to an eligible
4 applicant or recipient under RCW 74.04.005, and the department shall
5 thereby have a lien against said assets as provided in RCW 43.20B.120.
6 If the deceased person is survived by a spouse or is a minor child
7 survived by his parent or parents, the department may take into
8 consideration the assets of such surviving spouse, parent, or parents
9 in determining whether or not the department will assume responsibility
10 for the funeral, or disposition costs.

11 The department shall not pay more than cost for a minimum standard
12 service rendered by each vendor. Payments to the funeral director and
13 to the cemetery or crematorium will be made by separate vouchers. The
14 standard of such services and the uniform amounts to be paid shall be
15 determined by the department after giving due consideration to such
16 advice and counsel as it shall obtain from the trade associations of
17 the various vendors and related state departments, agencies, and
18 commissions. Payment made for any funeral, transportation, or burial
19 service by relatives, friends, or any other third party above a
20 donation level established by the department shall be subtracted from
21 the payment made by the department.

--- END ---