

SSB 6261 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Public Safety

ADOPTED 03/04/2016

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 68.50.050 and 2011 c 96 s 48 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Any person, not authorized or directed by the coroner or
6 ((his)) medical examiner or ((her)) their deputies, who removes the
7 body of a deceased person not claimed by a relative or friend, or
8 ((who came to their death by reason of violence or from unnatural
9 causes or where there shall exist reasonable grounds for the belief
10 that such death has been caused by unlawful means at the hands of
11 another)) moves, disturbs, molests, or interferes with the human
12 remains coming within the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical
13 examiner as set forth in RCW 68.50.010, to any undertaking rooms or
14 elsewhere, or any person who knowingly directs, aids, or abets such
15 unauthorized moving, disturbing, molesting, or taking, and any person
16 who ((in any way)) knowingly conceals the ((body of a deceased person
17 for the purpose of taking the same to any undertaking rooms or
18 elsewhere)) human remains, shall in each of said cases be guilty of a
19 gross misdemeanor ((and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by
20 fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the
21 county jail for up to three hundred sixty four days or by both fine
22 and imprisonment in the discretion of the court)).

23 (2) In evaluating whether it is necessary to retain jurisdiction
24 and custody of human remains under RCW 68.50.010, 68.50.645, and
25 27.44.055, the coroner or medical examiner shall consider the
26 deceased's religious beliefs, if known, including the tenets,
27 customs, or rites related to death and burial.

28 (3) For purposes of this section and unless the context clearly
29 requires otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined
30 in RCW 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to,
31 skeletal remains.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 68.50.020 and 1987 c 331 s 55 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 It shall be the duty of every person who knows of the existence
4 and location of ((~~a dead body~~)) human remains coming under the
5 jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW
6 68.50.010 or 27.44.055, to notify the coroner, medical examiner, or
7 law enforcement thereof in the most expeditious manner possible,
8 unless such person shall have good reason to believe that such notice
9 has already been given. Any person knowing of the existence of such
10 ((~~dead body~~)) human remains and not having good reason to believe
11 that the coroner has notice thereof and who shall fail to give notice
12 to the coroner as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For
13 purposes of this section and unless the context clearly requires
14 otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
15 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to,
16 skeletal remains."

17 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds law enforcement as an additional person (in addition to the coroner and medical examiner) that a person can notify when he or she knows of the existence and location of human remains.

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