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HOUSE BILL 2775

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, Appleton, Haler, Hayes, and Dent

Read first time 01/20/16. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1            AN ACT Relating to coroners and medical examiners regarding death  
2 investigations; and amending RCW 68.50.050 and 68.50.020.

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

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

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

1 ~~discretion of the court~~) human remains, is guilty of a gross  
2 misdemeanor in each such case.

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

5 It (~~shall be~~) is the duty of every person who knows of the  
6 existence and location of (~~a dead body~~) human remains coming under  
7 the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in  
8 RCW 68.50.010, to notify the coroner or medical examiner thereof in  
9 the most expeditious manner possible, unless such person (~~shall~~  
10 ~~have~~) has good reason to believe that such notice has already been  
11 given. Any person knowing of the existence of such (~~dead body~~)  
12 human remains and not having good reason to believe that the coroner  
13 or medical examiner has notice thereof and who (~~shall~~) fails to  
14 give such notice to the coroner (~~as aforesaid, shall be~~) or medical  
15 examiner, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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