

---

SENATE BILL 5891

---

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senator Angel

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to the sale and commercial display of human  
2 remains; amending RCW 68.50.130; creating a new section; prescribing  
3 penalties; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The sale or commercial display of human  
6 remains is offensive to community standards of decency. The public  
7 outcry against the sale and display of human remains reminds us of  
8 the basic dignity that all human remains should be granted. The  
9 legislature through this act does not intend to prevent legitimate  
10 medical or educational endeavors and believes the respectful  
11 treatment and disposal of human remains is compatible with those  
12 aims. The legislature does intend to prohibit the sale for profit of  
13 human remains and any commercial display for advertising or other  
14 benefit.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 68.50.130 and 2005 c 365 s 139 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Every person who performs a disposition of any human remains,  
18 except as otherwise provided by law, in any place, except in a  
19 cemetery or a building dedicated exclusively for religious purposes,  
20 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

1       (2) A person who sells or commercially displays human remains is  
2 guilty of a class C felony.

3       (3) Disposition of cremated human remains may also occur on  
4 private property, with the consent of the property owner; and on  
5 public or government lands or waters with the approval of the  
6 government agency that has either jurisdiction or control, or both,  
7 of the lands or waters.

8       (4) Nothing in this section prohibits the possession of human  
9 remains by authorized search and rescue personnel for the purpose of  
10 training human remains detection canines. For the purposes of this  
11 subsection, "authorized search and rescue personnel" means personnel  
12 registered as emergency workers with their county's department of  
13 emergency management who deploy at the direction of law enforcement  
14 agencies.

15       NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act takes effect September 1, 2015.

--- END ---