

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate March 8, 2016
Yeas 47 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 4, 2016
Yeas 97 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261** as passed by Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6261

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Padden, Pedersen, and Miloscia)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to human remains; amending RCW 68.50.050 and
2 68.50.020; and prescribing penalties.

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

1 ~~county jail for up to three hundred sixty four days or by both fine~~
2 ~~and imprisonment in the discretion of the court)).~~

3 (2) In evaluating whether it is necessary to retain jurisdiction
4 and custody of human remains under RCW 68.50.010, 68.50.645, and
5 27.44.055, the coroner or medical examiner shall consider the
6 deceased's religious beliefs, if known, including the tenets,
7 customs, or rites related to death and burial.

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

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

14 It shall be the duty of every person who knows of the existence
15 and location of ((a dead body)) human remains coming under the
16 jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in RCW
17 68.50.010 or 27.44.055, to notify the coroner, medical examiner, or
18 law enforcement thereof in the most expeditious manner possible,
19 unless such person shall have good reason to believe that such notice
20 has already been given. Any person knowing of the existence of such
21 ((dead body)) human remains and not having good reason to believe
22 that the coroner has notice thereof and who shall fail to give notice
23 to the coroner as aforesaid, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. For
24 purposes of this section and unless the context clearly requires
25 otherwise, "human remains" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
26 68.04.020. Human remains also includes, but is not limited to,
27 skeletal remains.

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