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## Local Government Committee

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### HB 1100

**Brief Description:** Concerning the disposition of the remains of a county resident who dies indigent in an adjacent county outside of Washington.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Schmick and Leavitt.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Permits a board of county commissioners to provide for the disposition of the remains of an indigent resident of the county who dies in an adjacent county outside of Washington.

**Hearing Date:** 1/18/23

**Staff:** Kellen Wright (786-7134).

**Background:**

Human remains in Washington must be decently buried or undergo cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, or natural organic reduction within a reasonable time after death.

Generally, a person has the authority to direct the disposition of their own remains. If a person has not made arrangements or provided directions, or if the costs of executing the person's wishes exceed a reasonable amount, then responsibility for arranging the disposition, and the liability for the costs of the disposition, falls to the person's family or guardian.

However, when a person dies indigent and their body is not claimed by relatives or a church organization, it is the responsibility of the board of county commissioners of the county in which they died to provide for the disposition of the person's remains.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:**

The board of county commissioners may provide for the disposition of the remains of an indigent resident of the county who dies in a neighboring county that is not in Washington.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.