

1985 Senate Bill 219

Date of enactment: November 20, 1985  
Date of publication: November 27, 1985

## 1985 Wisconsin Act 93

AN ACT to repeal 970.001, 979.025 and 979.22 (2) and (3); to renumber 979.22 and 979.22 (1); to amend 979.22 (title) and 979.22 (title); and to create 979.001, 979.025 and 979.22 (2) and (3) of the statutes, relating to the removal of pituitary glands in the performance or conduct of autopsies.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. 979.001 of the statutes is created to read:

**979.001 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Hypopituitarism" means the deficient or diminished activity of the human pituitary gland in the production of hormones regulating growth.

(2) "Hypopituitary dwarf" means a person afflicted with hypopituitarism.

SECTION 1m. 979.001 of the statutes, as created by 1985 Wisconsin Act ... (this act), is repealed.

SECTION 2. 979.025 of the statutes is created to read:

**979.025 Pituitary gland removal.** (1) If an autopsy is ordered under s. 979.02, the licensed physician conducting the autopsy may remove the pituitary gland from the body.

(2) Unless the retention of the pituitary gland removed under sub. (1) is required as evidence relevant or material to the inquiry of an inquest or unless the body was interred prior to autopsy, the pituitary gland so removed may be frozen and transported for use in manufacturing a hormone necessary for the physical growth of hypopituitary dwarfs or for research on hypopituitarism.

(3) Transportation of the pituitary gland under sub. (2) may be only by mail to the national hormone and pituitary program or by an authorized agent of that program to the program.

SECTION 2m. 979.025 of the statutes, as created by 1985 Wisconsin Act ... (this act), is repealed.

SECTION 3. 979.22 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

**979.22 (title) Autopsies and toxicological services by medical examiners; pituitary gland removal.**

SECTION 3m. 979.22 (title) of the statutes, as affected by 1985 Wisconsin Act ... (this act), is amended to read:

**979.22 (title) Autopsies and toxicological services by medical examiners.**

SECTION 4. 979.22 of the statutes is renumbered 979.22 (1).

SECTION 4m. 979.22 (1) of the statutes, as affected by 1985 Wisconsin Act ... (this act), is renumbered 979.22.

SECTION 5. 979.22 (2) and (3) of the statutes are created to read:

979.22 (2) Except as provided under sub. (3), if a medical examiner performs an autopsy under sub. (1), he or she may remove the pituitary gland from the body. A pituitary gland so removed may be frozen and transported for use in manufacturing a hormone necessary for the physical growth of hypopituitary dwarfs or for research on hypopituitarism. Transportation of the pituitary gland may be only by mail to the national hormone and pituitary program or by an authorized agent of that program to the program.

(3) No medical examiner may remove, freeze and transport a pituitary gland under sub. (2) if any of the following conditions exist:

(a) The body was interred prior to the autopsy.

(b) Consent to perform an autopsy has not been attained as specified under s. 155.05.

(c) The decedent executed an anatomical gift under s. 155.06 (4) and one of the following subsequently occurred:

1. The decedent revoked the gift under s. 155.06 (6).

2. The decedent amended the gift under s. 155.06 (6) to exclude the gifting of his or her pituitary gland.

3. The gift was revoked under s. 155.06 (2) (a).

(d) The decedent executed an anatomical gift under s. 155.06 (4) donating his or her body or pituitary gland to a specific donee that is not the national hormone and pituitary program.

(e) The medical examiner performing the autopsy has actual notice of contrary indications by will or other document of the decedent or actual notice that a member of a class under s. 155.06 (2) (b) is opposed to the gifting of the decedent's body by a member of the same or a like class under that paragraph.

SECTION 5m. 979.22 (2) and (3) of the statutes, as created by 1985 Wisconsin Act ... (this act), are repealed.

**SECTION 6. Effective dates.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), all sections of this act take effect on the day following publication.

(2) The repeal of sections 979.001, 979.025 and 979.22 (2) and (3) of the statutes and the treatment of

sections 979.22 (title) (by SECTION 3m) and 979.22 (1) (by SECTION 4m) of the statutes take effect on July 1, 1991.

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