



2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 207

March 25, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives NOVAK, SWEARINGEN, ARMSTRONG, BOWEN, CALLAHAN, KITCHENS, KRUG, MOSES, L. MYERS, J. RODRIGUEZ, ROZAR, SKOWRONSKI and STUBBS, cosponsored by Senators TESTIN, L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, KOOYENGA and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Health.

1 **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 440.70 (6) and 440.78 (3) (c); **to amend** 440.70
2 (5) and 440.80 (2) (b); and **to create** 440.70 (6) (b), 440.70 (6m), 440.78 (3) (c)
3 2. and 440.78 (5m) of the statutes; **relating to:** the use of alkaline hydrolysis
4 to cremate human remains and providing an exemption from emergency rule
5 procedures.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, a person may use the process of alkaline hydrolysis to cremate human remains only if the person is registered as a crematory authority by the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Alkaline hydrolysis is a process that uses water, alkaline chemicals, pressure, and heat to reduce human remains for final disposition. The bill places the use of alkaline hydrolysis for cremating human remains under generally the same requirements that apply under current law to conventional cremation.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** 440.70 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

ASSEMBLY BILL 207**SECTION 1**

1 440.70 (5) “Cremated remains” means human remains recovered from the
2 cremation of a human body or body part and the residue of a container or foreign
3 materials that were cremated with the body or body part, but excludes the sterile
4 liquid resulting from cremation by alkaline hydrolysis.

5 **SECTION 2.** 440.70 (6) of the statutes is renumbered 440.70 (6) (intro.) and
6 amended to read:

7 440.70 (6) (intro.) “Cremation” means any of the following:

8 (a) The process of using heat and flame to reduce human remains to bone
9 fragments ~~and includes,~~ including processing or pulverizing the bone fragments.

10 **SECTION 3.** 440.70 (6) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

11 440.70 (6) (b) Cremation by alkaline hydrolysis.

12 **SECTION 4.** 440.70 (6m) of the statutes is created to read:

13 440.70 (6m) “Cremation by alkaline hydrolysis” means the process of using
14 water, alkaline chemicals, pressure, and heat to reduce human remains to bone
15 fragments, including processing or pulverizing the bone fragments.

16 **SECTION 5.** 440.78 (3) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 440.78 (3) (c) 1. and
17 amended to read:

18 440.78 (3) (c) 1. ~~A~~ Except as provided under subd. 2., a container may be used
19 to hold human remains that are to be cremated only if the container is composed of
20 readily combustible materials that are resistant to leakage and spillage, has the
21 ability to be closed for complete covering of the human remains, is sufficiently rigid
22 to provide ease in handling, and is able to protect the health and safety of crematory
23 personnel.

24 **SECTION 6.** 440.78 (3) (c) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

ASSEMBLY BILL 207**SECTION 6**

1 440.78 (3) (c) 2. A container may be used to hold human remains that are to
2 be cremated by alkaline hydrolysis only if the container is biodegradable and opaque
3 and satisfies subd. 1.

4 **SECTION 7.** 440.78 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

5 440.78 (5m) DESTRUCTION OF PATHOGENS. If a crematory authority cremates
6 human remains by alkaline hydrolysis, the crematory authority shall during the
7 cremation process destroy the pathogens in the cremation chamber. The department
8 shall promulgate rules to establish requirements for complying with this subsection.

9 **SECTION 8.** 440.80 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 440.80 (2) (b) Disposing of the remains in any other lawful manner that does
11 not harm the environment, but only if the remains are reduced to a particle size of
12 one-eighth inch or less.

13 **SECTION 9. Nonstatutory provisions.**

14 (1) EMERGENCY RULES. Using the procedure under s. 227.24, the department of
15 safety and professional services may promulgate rules to implement this act under
16 ss. 440.78 and 440.84 for the period before the effective date of the permanent rules
17 promulgated under ss. 440.78 and 440.84 but not to exceed the period authorized
18 under s. 227.24 (1) (c), subject to extension under s. 227.24 (2). Notwithstanding s.
19 227.24 (1) (a), (2) (b), and (3), the department of safety and professional services is
20 not required to provide evidence that promulgating a rule under this subsection as
21 an emergency rule is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
22 safety, or welfare and is not required to provide a finding of emergency for a rule
23 promulgated under this subsection.

24

(END)