



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2015 Wisconsin Act 382
[2015 Assembly Bill 693]

**Disposition of Unclaimed
Cremated Remains of Veterans**

2015 Wisconsin Act 382 requires a funeral director, cemetery authority, or public officer having custody of unclaimed cremated remains to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), a county veterans service officer (CVSO), or a local veterans service organization within 90 days after cremation to determine whether the cremated remains are of a veteran or other person eligible for burial at a veterans cemetery. Under the Act, if DVA, the CVSO, or the local veterans service organization determines that the cremated remains are of a veteran or other person eligible for burial at a veterans cemetery, the funeral director, cemetery authority, or public officer may transfer the cremated remains to DVA for burial in a veterans cemetery.

The Act also provides an exemption from civil liability for certain persons transferring cremated remains to DVA. Under the Act, a funeral director (or the owner or operator of the funeral establishment, if different from the funeral director), cemetery authority, or public authority who transfers cremated remains to DVA is exempt from civil liability, unless the transfer involves negligence or reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

Effective date: April 27, 2016

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.