



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2015 Assembly Bill 693**

**Assembly Amendments 1 and 2**

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### **2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 693**

Assembly Bill 693 requires a funeral director, cemetery authority, or public officer having custody of unclaimed cremated remains to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) or a county veterans service officer (CVSO) 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. If DVA or the CVSO determines that the cremated remains are of a veteran or other person eligible for burial at a veterans cemetery, the bill authorizes the funeral director, cemetery authority, or public officer to transfer the cremated remains to DVA for burial in a veterans cemetery. Under the bill, a person who transfers cremated remains to DVA is exempt from civil liability, unless the transfer involves negligence or reckless, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1**

Under Assembly Amendment 1, a funeral directory, cemetery authority, or public officer having custody of unclaimed cremated remains may contact a local veterans service organization in lieu of contacting DVA or a CVSO.

### **ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 2**

Assembly Amendment 2 narrows the liability exemption under the bill from “any person” who transfers unclaimed cremated remains to the department to instead exempt “a funeral director, cemetery authority, or public officer who transfers cremated remains to the department and, if different from the funeral director, the owner or operator of the funeral establishment.”

**BILL HISTORY**

Representative Skowronski offered Assembly Amendment 1 on January 28, 2016 and Assembly Amendment 2 on February 1, 2016. On February 4, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs voted unanimously to recommend adoption of both amendments and passage of the bill, as amended.

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