



2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 75

February 3, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives KERKMAN, LOTHIAN, GRONEMUS, ALBERS, BIES, FREESE, GUNDERSON, HINES, HUNDERTMARK, KREIBICH, MONTGOMERY, MUSSER, NASS, OWENS, STONE, VAN ROY, VRAKAS and HAHN, cosponsored by Senators A. LASEE, KEDZIE, ROESSLER, RISSER, LASSA and BRESKE. Referred to Committee on Small Business.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 157.055 (2) (intro.); and *to create* 15.407 (8), 440.08 (2) (a)
2 24m. and subchapter VI of chapter 440 [precedes 440.70] of the statutes;
3 **relating to:** regulating the cremation of human remains, creating a Crematory
4 Authority Council, granting rule-making authority, and providing penalties.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates requirements for authorizing the cremation of human remains, conducting cremations, and disposing of cremated human remains. Certain persons are exempt from these requirements. The bill requires the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) to carry out regulatory duties regarding cremations.

Authorizing the cremation of human remains. Under the bill, only the following persons are allowed to authorize the cremation of the human remains of a decedent: 1) the decedent's surviving spouse; 2) if the surviving spouse declines to authorize cremation but does not object to cremation, or if he or she is incapacitated, any one of the decedent's surviving adult children may authorize the cremation, unless another surviving adult child objects in writing to the cremation; 3) if all of the foregoing persons decline to authorize cremation but do not object, or if they are incapacitated, a surviving parent may authorize cremation, unless another surviving parent objects in writing; 4) if all of the foregoing persons decline to authorize cremation and do not object, or if they are incapacitated, a surviving person related in the closest degree of kinship to the decedent may authorize cremation, unless another person of the same degree of kinship objects in writing; and 5) if all

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

of the foregoing persons decline to authorize cremation but do not object, or they are incapacitated, any other person may authorize cremation.

In addition, if a decedent's estate is not sufficient to pay the expenses related to the final disposition of the decedent's human remains, or if final disposition is the responsibility of the state or a local unit of government, the bill allows the following persons to authorize cremation: 1) the coroner or medical examiner of the county in which the death occurred; or 2) the decedent's guardian at the time of death. However, a coroner, medical examiner, or guardian may not authorize cremation if any person in the first four categories described above objects in writing or states in writing that cremation was contrary to the decedent's religious beliefs. Also, a coroner, medical examiner, or guardian may not authorize cremation if a person that owns or operates a crematory, which the bill defines as a "crematory authority," determines that there is evidence that cremation was contrary to the decedent's religious beliefs.

A person who is allowed to authorize the cremation of human remains, defined by the bill as an "authorizing agent," may exercise that authority only by completing an authorization form. The form must state that the authorizing agent has no reason to believe that the decedent's remains contain a device that may be hazardous or cause certain damage during the cremation. The form must also identify the funeral director, funeral establishment, or cemetery that the authorizing agent authorizes to receive the cremated remains. If alternative arrangements are made for receiving the cremated remains, the form must describe the arrangements. In addition, the form must indicate the following: 1) if known by the authorizing agent, the manner in which the cremated remains are to be disposed; 2) an itemized list of valuables on the decedent's person that must be removed prior to cremation and returned to the authorizing agent; and 3) if a viewing or other services are planned, the date and time of the viewing or services.

The bill allows an authorizing agent to delegate, in writing, the authority to authorize cremation to another individual. In addition, the bill allows an authorizing agent to cancel a cremation by providing the crematory authority with a written revocation of an authorization form and with written instructions regarding the final disposition of the human remains. Also, the bill provides that an authorizing agent is liable for damages resulting from authorizing a cremation.

Conducting cremations. The bill allows only persons who are registered with DRL as "cremation authorities" to cremate human remains. DRL must register a person who pays a fee, and provides specified information, including a description of the structure and equipment proposed to be used in operating a "crematory," which the bill defines as a building or portion of a building within which a cremation chamber is located. A registration must be renewed every two years.

The bill requires a crematory authority that accepts human remains from a person to provide the person with a receipt. The bill allows a crematory authority to refuse acceptance for any of the following reasons: 1) the container has evidence of leakage of bodily fluids; 2) the crematory authority has knowledge of an unresolved dispute regarding the cremation of the human remains; 3) the crematory authority has reason to believe that a representation of the authorizing agent is not true; or

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

4) the crematory authority has reason to believe that the human remains contain a device that may be hazardous or cause certain damage during a cremation. In addition, the bill prohibits a crematory authority from refusing acceptance solely on the basis that the human remains have not been placed in a casket or have not been embalmed.

The bill prohibits a crematory authority from cremating human remains, unless it has received the authorization form described above, as well as a copy of a cremation permit and a report for final disposition of a human corpse, both of which are required under current law. The crematory authority must satisfy other requirements, including requirements regarding holding human remains before cremation, removing cremated remains from a cremation chamber, using containers for cremated remains, and maintaining a system for identifying human remains throughout the cremation process. The bill also imposes requirements on a crematory authority's delivery of cremated remains to another person.

In addition, the bill does the following: 1) requires crematory authorities to maintain permanent records regarding cremations; 2) prohibits crematory authorities from selling material or devices (such as medical devices) obtained from cremating human remains; and 3) prohibits crematory authorities from reselling containers used for cremating human remains. The bill also provides that crematory authorities are immune from civil liability for damages resulting from cremating human remains if they comply with the bill's requirements. However, the immunity does not apply to intentional misconduct, negligent conduct, or the failure to return valuables specified on an authorization form.

Disposing of cremated remains. The bill provides that an authorizing agent is responsible for determining the manner in which cremated remains are disposed. However, if the authorizing agent does not make the determination, the crematory authority must, no sooner than 30 days after the cremation, deliver the cremated remains to the person, funeral establishment, or other business entity that delivered the human remains to the crematory authority for cremation. Such a person, funeral establishment, or business entity may not refuse to accept the cremated remains. No sooner than 60 days after receiving the cremated remains, the person, funeral establishment, or business entity is allowed to determine the manner of disposal and must make a written record of the determination. An authorizing agent, the decedent's estate, or both, are liable for reasonable expenses for delivery to, and disposal of cremated remains by, such a person, funeral establishment, or business entity.

Under the bill, cremated remains may be disposed of only in one of the following manners: 1) placement in a grave, niche, or crypt; or 2) any other lawful manner, but only if the cremated remains are reduced to a particle size of one-eighth inch or less. Also, unless the prior written consent of the appropriate authorizing agents is obtained, cremated remains of different individuals may not be commingled or placed in the same container.

Other provisions. Other provisions of the bill include the following:

1. The bill allows DRL to take disciplinary action, including revoking a registration, if a crematory authority violates the bill's requirements.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

2. The bill creates criminal penalties and civil forfeitures for violating the bill's requirements.

3. The bill allows a person to act as authorizing agent for cremating a part of his or her body, or to authorize another person to act as authorizing agent for such a purpose.

4. The bill specifies the circumstances under which a person is considered incapacitated for purposes of determining who may act as an authorizing agent.

5. The bill creates a Crematory Authority Council to advise DRL on the regulation of crematory authorities. The council consists of three funeral directors, three representatives of cemetery authorities, and one public member.

The bill does not affect any of the following provisions under current law regarding cremations: 1) the requirement to obtain a permit from a coroner or medical examiner before cremating a corpse; 2) the authority of the Department of Health and Family Services to make orders regarding the disposal of human remains during public health emergencies declared by the governor; and 3) the authority of the Department of Commerce to approve the construction of crematoriums.

Exemptions. The provisions of the bill do not apply to any of the following: 1) a person who is performing his or her duties as an officer of a public institution, medical school, medical college, county medical society, anatomical association, or accredited college of embalming; 2) a person acting in accordance with a statute prescribing the conditions under which donated or indigent human dead bodies are held subject for anatomical study; or 3) to a person who is acting according to the burial customs or rites of a religious sect.

Because this bill creates a new crime or revises a penalty for an existing crime, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties may be requested to prepare a report concerning the proposed penalty and the costs or savings that are likely to result if the bill is enacted.

For further information see the *state and local* 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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 15.407 (8) of the statutes is created to read:

2 15.407 (8) CREMATORY AUTHORITY COUNCIL. There is created a crematory
3 authority council in the department of regulation and licensing consisting of the
4 secretary of regulation and licensing or a designee of the secretary, who shall serve
5 as a nonvoting member, and the following persons appointed for 3-year terms:

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 (a) Three persons licensed as funeral directors under ch. 445 who operate
2 crematories.

3 (b) Three representatives of cemetery authorities, as defined in s. 157.061 (2),
4 who operate crematories.

5 (c) One public member.

6 **SECTION 2.** 157.055 (2) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 157.055 (2) (intro.) Notwithstanding ss. 69.18 (4), 445.04 (2), 445.14, 979.01 (3),
8 (3m), and (4), 979.02, and 979.10, and subch. VI of ch. 440, during a period of a state
9 of emergency related to public health declared by the governor under s. 166.03 (1) (b)
10 1., a public health authority may do all of the following:

11 **SECTION 3.** 440.08 (2) (a) 24m. of the statutes is created to read:

12 440.08 (2) (a) 24m. Crematory authority: January 1 of each even-numbered
13 year; \$53.

14 **SECTION 4.** Subchapter VI of chapter 440 [precedes 440.70] of the statutes is
15 created to read:

16 **CHAPTER 440**

17 **SUBCHAPTER VI**

18 **CREMATORY AUTHORITIES**

19 **440.70 Definitions.** As used in this subchapter:

20 (1) "Authorization form" means a form specified in s. 440.73.

21 (2) "Authorizing agent" means an individual who acts as an authorizing agent
22 under s. 440.72 or to whom a delegation of authority is made under s. 440.74.

23 (3) "Business entity" has the meaning given in s. 452.01 (3j).

24 (4) "Columbarium" means a building, structure, or part of a building or
25 structure that is used or intended to be used for the inurnment of cremated remains.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 (5) “Cremated remains” means human remains recovered from the cremation
2 of a human body or body part and the residue of a container or foreign materials that
3 were cremated with the body or body part.

4 (6) “Cremation” means the process of using heat to reduce human remains to
5 bone fragments and includes processing or pulverizing the bone fragments.

6 (7) “Cremation chamber” means an enclosed space within which cremation
7 takes place.

8 (8) “Crematory” means a building or portion of a building within which a
9 cremation chamber is located.

10 (9) “Crematory authority” means a person who owns or operates a crematory.

11 (10) “Funeral director” has the meaning given in s. 445.01 (5).

12 (11) “Funeral establishment” has the meaning given in s. 445.01 (6).

13 (12) “Human remains” means the body or part of the body of a deceased
14 individual.

15 (13) “Incapacitated” means unable to receive and evaluate information
16 effectively or to communicate decisions.

17 (14) “Niche” means a space in a columbarium that is used or intended to be used
18 for the inurnment of cremated remains.

19 **440.71 Registration; renewal. (1) PROHIBITION.** No person may cremate
20 human remains unless the department has registered the person as a crematory
21 authority under sub. (2).

22 **(2) REGISTRATION.** The department shall register a person as a crematory
23 authority if the person does all of the following:

24 (a) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1).

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 (b) Submits an application on a form provided by the department that includes
2 all of the following:

3 1. The name and address of the applicant or the business entity that the
4 applicant represents.

5 2. The address of the crematory.

6 3. A description of the structure and equipment proposed to be used in
7 operating the crematory.

8 4. Any other information that the department may require.

9 **(3) RENEWAL.** Renewal applications shall be submitted to the department on
10 a form provided by the department on or before the applicable renewal date specified
11 under s. 440.08 (2) (a) and shall include the applicable renewal fee specified under
12 s. 440.08 (2) (a).

13 **440.72 Authorizing agents. (1)** Except as provided in subs. (3) and (4), only
14 the following may act as an authorizing agent and direct the cremation of the human
15 remains of a decedent:

16 (a) The decedent's surviving spouse.

17 (b) One of the decedent's surviving adult children who confirms in writing to
18 the crematory authority that all other surviving children have been notified about
19 the cremation, if the individual specified in par. (a) declines to act as authorizing
20 agent but does not object to the cremation, or is dead or incapacitated, unless another
21 surviving adult child of the decedent provides a written objection to the cremation
22 to the crematory authority.

23 (c) A surviving parent of the decedent, if the individuals specified in pars. (a)
24 and (b) decline to act as authorizing agent but do not object to the cremation, or are

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 dead or incapacitated, unless a surviving parent of the decedent provides a written
2 objection to the cremation to the crematory authority.

3 (d) A surviving individual related in the closest degree of kinship to the
4 decedent, as determined under s. 990.001 (16), if the individuals specified in pars.
5 (a) to (c) decline to act as authorizing agent but do not object to the cremation, or are
6 dead or incapacitated, unless a surviving individual of the same degree of kinship
7 provides a written objection to the cremation to the crematory authority.

8 (e) Any other person, if the individuals specified in pars. (a) to (d) decline to act
9 as authorizing agent but do not object to the cremation, or are dead or incapacitated.

10 **(2)** An individual is incapacitated for purposes of sub. (1) if 2 physicians
11 licensed under subch. II of ch. 448, or one physician licensed under subch. II of ch.
12 448 and one psychologist licensed under ch. 455, have personally examined the
13 individual and signed a statement specifying that the individual is incapacitated.
14 Age, eccentricity, or physical disability, either singly or together, are insufficient to
15 make a finding that an individual is incapacitated. Neither of the individuals who
16 make a finding that an individual is incapacitated may be a relative, as defined in
17 s. 242.01 (11), of the individual.

18 **(3)** If a decedent's estate is insufficient to pay the expenses related to final
19 disposition of the decedent's human remains, or if final disposition of the decedent's
20 human remains is the responsibility of the state or a local unit of government, the
21 following persons, in the priority listed, may act as an authorizing agent and direct
22 the cremation of the decedent's human remains:

23 (a) An individual specified in sub. (1) (a) to (d), unless one of those individuals
24 objects in writing to the cremation or states in writing that cremation was contrary
25 to the religious beliefs of the decedent or unless the crematory authority determines

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 that there is evidence that cremation was contrary to the religious beliefs of the
2 decedent.

3 (b) The coroner or medical examiner of the county in which the decedent's death
4 occurred.

5 (c) The decedent's guardian at the time of the decedent's death.

6 (4) An individual may not act as an authorizing agent unless he or she has
7 made all reasonable efforts to contact all individuals under sub. (1) who have
8 superior authority to act as an authorizing agent and has confirmed that such
9 individuals do not object to the cremation.

10 (5) An individual may act as an authorizing agent, or authorize another
11 individual to act as an authorizing agent, for purposes of directing the cremation of
12 his or her own body part.

13 **440.73 Authorization forms.** An authorizing agent may direct the cremation
14 of the human remains of a decedent only by completing a form that includes all of the
15 following:

16 (1) The name of the decedent and the date and time of the decedent's death.

17 (2) The name of the authorizing agent and his or her relationship to the
18 decedent.

19 (3) A statement that the authorizing agent has the authority to authorize the
20 cremation and either that no other individual has superior authority or that the
21 authorizing agent has made all reasonable efforts to contact all individuals with
22 superior authority and such individuals do not object to cremation.

23 (4) A statement that the authorizing agent has no reason to believe that the
24 decedent's remains contain a device that may be hazardous or cause damage to the
25 cremation chamber or an individual performing the cremation.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 (5) The name of the funeral director, funeral establishment, or cemetery that
2 the authorizing agent authorizes to receive the cremated remains or, if alternative
3 arrangements are made for receiving the cremated remains, a description of those
4 arrangements.

5 (6) If known by the authorizing agent, the manner in which the cremated
6 remains are to be disposed.

7 (7) An itemized list of valuables on the decedent's person that are to be removed
8 prior to cremation and returned to the authorizing agent.

9 (8) If a viewing or other services are planned, the date and time of the viewing
10 or services.

11 (9) The signature of the authorizing agent attesting to the accuracy of the
12 representations contained on the form.

13 **440.74 Delegation of authority.** An authorizing agent may, in writing,
14 delegate the authority to direct the cremation of the human remains of a decedent
15 to another individual. The delegation shall include all of the following:

16 (1) The name and address of the authorizing agent and the relationship of the
17 authorizing agent to the decedent.

18 (2) The name and address of the individual to whom the delegation is made and
19 the relationship of the authorizing agent to that individual.

20 **440.75 Liability of authorizing agent.** An authorizing agent is liable for
21 damages resulting from authorizing the cremation of the human remains of a
22 decedent.

23 **440.76 Revocation of authorization.** Before a cremation is performed, an
24 authorizing agent may cancel the cremation by providing the crematory authority
25 with a written statement revoking the authorization form. An authorizing agent

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 who revokes an authorization form shall provide the crematory authority with
2 written instructions regarding the final disposition of the human remains.

3 **440.77 Delivery and acceptance of human remains. (1) RECEIPT FOR**
4 **DELIVERY.** A crematory authority that receives human remains from a person shall
5 provide the person with a receipt that includes all of the following:

6 (a) The name of the decedent.

7 (b) The date and time that the human remains were delivered.

8 (c) A description of the type of casket or container in which the human remains
9 were delivered.

10 (d) The name of the person who delivered the human remains and the name
11 of the funeral establishment or other business entity, if any, with which the person
12 is affiliated.

13 (e) The name of the person who received the human remains on behalf of the
14 crematory authority and the name of the funeral establishment or other business
15 entity, if any, with which the crematory authority is affiliated.

16 (f) The signature of the person who delivered the human remains.

17 (g) The signature of the person who received the human remains on behalf of
18 the crematory authority.

19 **(2) ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN REMAINS.** (a) A crematory authority may not refuse
20 to accept delivery of human remains solely on the basis that the human remains have
21 not been placed in a casket or have not been embalmed.

22 (b) A crematory authority may refuse to accept delivery of human remains if
23 any of the following apply:

24 1. The casket or other container used for the human remains has evidence of
25 leakage of bodily fluids.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 2. The crematory authority has knowledge of a dispute regarding the cremation
2 of the human remains, unless the crematory authority receives a copy of a court order
3 or other documentation indicating that the dispute has been resolved.

4 3. The crematory authority has reason to believe that a representation of the
5 authorizing agent is not true.

6 4. The crematory authority has reason to believe that the human remains
7 contain a device that may be hazardous or cause damage to the cremation chamber
8 or an individual performing the cremation.

9 **440.78 Cremation requirements. (1) DOCUMENTATION.** A crematory
10 authority may not cremate the human remains of a decedent unless the authority
11 has received all of the following:

12 (a) An authorization form completed by an authorizing agent.

13 (b) A copy of the cremation permit issued under s. 979.10 (1) (a).

14 (c) If a report for final disposition of a human corpse is required under s. 69.18
15 (3), a copy of the report.

16 **(2) HOLDING FACILITY.** (a) Upon accepting delivery of human remains, a
17 crematory authority shall place the human remains in a holding facility until they
18 are cremated, except that, if the crematory authority obtains knowledge of a dispute
19 regarding the cremation of the human remains, the crematory authority may, until
20 the dispute is resolved, return the human remains to the person who delivered the
21 human remains or the funeral establishment or other business entity with which
22 that person is affiliated, neither of which may refuse to accept the human remains.

23 (b) A crematory authority shall restrict access to a holding facility to authorized
24 personnel.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 **(3) CASKETS AND OTHER CONTAINERS.** (a) A crematory authority may not require
2 human remains to be placed in a casket before cremation or to be cremated in a
3 casket.

4 (b) Unless a crematory authority obtains the prior written consent of the
5 authorizing agent, and except as provided in par. (c), a crematory authority shall
6 cremate with human remains the casket or other container holding the human
7 remains or destroy the casket or other container.

8 (c) A container may be used to hold human remains that are to be cremated only
9 if the container is composed of readily combustible materials that are resistant to
10 leakage and spillage, has the ability to be closed for complete covering of the human
11 remains, is sufficiently rigid to provide ease in handling, and is able to protect the
12 health and safety of crematory personnel.

13 **(4) VIEWINGS OR OTHER SERVICES.** A crematory authority may not cremate
14 human remains before the date and time specified in an authorization form under
15 s. 440.73 (8).

16 **(5) SIMULTANEOUS CREMATION.** Unless a crematory authority receives the prior
17 written consent of each authorizing agent, a crematory authority may not
18 simultaneously cremate the human remains of more than one individual within the
19 same cremation chamber.

20 **(6) RESIDUE REMOVAL.** Upon completion of each cremation, a crematory
21 authority shall, insofar as practicable, remove all of the cremated remains from the
22 cremation chamber.

23 **(7) CONTAINERS FOR CREMATED REMAINS.** A container may be used to hold
24 cremated remains only if all of the following are satisfied:

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 (a) Except as provided in sub. (8), the container is a single container of sufficient
2 size to hold the cremated remains.

3 (b) The container may be closed in a manner that prevents the entrance of
4 foreign materials and prevents leakage or spillage of the cremated remains.

5 **(8) EXCESS REMAINS; ADDITIONAL CONTAINER.** If cremated remains that a
6 crematory authority recovers from a cremation chamber do not fit within the
7 container that the authorizing agent has selected, the crematory authority shall
8 return the remainder of the human remains to the authorized agent or authorized
9 agent's designee in a separate container.

10 **(9) IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.** A crematory authority shall maintain an
11 identification system that ensures the identity of human remains throughout all
12 phases of the cremation process.

13 **440.79 Deliveries of cremated remains.** A crematory authority may deliver
14 cremated remains to another person only by making the delivery in person or by
15 using a delivery service that has a system for tracking the delivery. The crematory
16 authority shall obtain a signed receipt from the person to whom the cremated
17 remains are delivered. The crematory authority shall ensure that the receipt
18 includes all of the following:

19 (a) The name of the decedent.

20 (b) The date and time that the cremated remains were delivered.

21 (c) The name and signature of the person to whom the cremated remains were
22 delivered and the name of the funeral establishment or other business entity, if any,
23 with which the person is affiliated.

24 (d) The name and signature of the person who delivered the cremated remains
25 on behalf of the crematory authority.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 **440.80 Disposition of cremated remains. (1) RESPONSIBLE PARTY. (a)**

2 Except as provided in par. (b), the authorizing agent is responsible for determining
3 the manner in which cremated remains are disposed.

4 (b) If the authorizing agent fails to determine the manner in which cremated
5 remains are disposed, the crematory authority shall, no sooner than 30 days after
6 cremation, deliver the cremated remains to the person who delivered the human
7 remains to the crematory authority for cremation or the funeral establishment or
8 other business entity with which that person is affiliated, neither of which may
9 refuse to accept the cremated remains. No sooner than 60 days after the cremated
10 remains are delivered under this paragraph, the person to whom they are delivered
11 may determine the manner in which the cremated remains are disposed and shall
12 make a written record of any determination that is made.

13 (c) The authorizing agent or the decedent's estate, or both, are liable for all
14 reasonable expenses incurred in delivering and disposing of cremated remains under
15 par. (b).

16 **(2) MANNER OF DISPOSITION.** A person may dispose of cremated remains only in
17 one of the following manners:

18 (a) Placing the remains in a grave, niche, or crypt.

19 (b) Disposing of the remains in any other lawful manner, but only if the remains
20 are reduced to a particle size of one-eighth inch or less.

21 **(3) COMMINGLING.** Without the prior written consent of each authorizing agent,
22 no person may do any of the following:

23 (a) Dispose of cremated remains in a manner or location that commingles the
24 remains with the cremated remains of another individual.

25 (b) Place cremated remains of more than one individual in the same container.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75**SECTION 4**

1 **(4) PROHIBITED SALES.** A crematory authority may not do any of the following:

2 (a) Sell any material or device, including a prosthetic or medical device of a
3 decedent, that is obtained from cremating the human remains of the decedent.

4 (b) Resell any casket or other container that has been used for cremating
5 human remains.

6 **440.81 Records.** **(1)** A crematory authority shall maintain a permanent
7 record of each cremation at its place of business consisting of the name of the
8 decedent, the date of the cremation, and a description of the manner in which the
9 cremated remains are disposed.

10 **(2)** A crematory authority shall maintain as permanent records the
11 documentation specified in s. 440.78 (1) and copies of receipts under ss. 440.77 (1)
12 and 440.79.

13 **440.82 Exemptions from liability.** **(1)** Except as provided in sub. (2), a
14 crematory authority is immune from civil liability for damages resulting from
15 cremating human remains, including damages to prosthetic or medical devices or
16 valuables of the decedent, if the authority has complied with the requirements of this
17 subchapter.

18 **(2)** A crematory authority is liable for damages resulting from the authority's
19 intentional misconduct, negligent conduct, or failure to return valuables specified on
20 an authorization form under s. 440.73 (7).

21 **440.83 Electronic transmission permitted.** Any statement required to be
22 in writing under s. 440.72 (1) or (3), 440.74, 440.76, 440.78 (3) (b) or (5), or 440.80 (3)
23 may be transmitted by facsimile.

24 **440.84 Rules.** The department may promulgate rules interpreting or
25 administering the requirements of this subchapter.

ASSEMBLY BILL 75

1 **440.85 Discipline. (1)** Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1),
2 the department may make investigations, including inspections, or conduct hearings
3 to determine whether a violation of this subchapter or any rule promulgated under
4 this subchapter has occurred.

5 **(2)** Subject to the rules promulgated under s. 440.03 (1), the department may
6 reprimand an individual registered under this subchapter or deny, limit, suspend,
7 or revoke a registration under this subchapter if the department finds that the
8 applicant or individual has done any of the following:

9 (a) Made a material misstatement in an application for a registration or
10 renewal of a registration.

11 (b) Engaged in conduct while practicing as a crematory authority that
12 evidences a lack of knowledge or ability to apply professional principles or skills.

13 (c) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322, and 111.335, been arrested or convicted of
14 an offense committed while registered under this subchapter.

15 (d) Advertised in a manner that is false, deceptive, or misleading.

16 (e) Advertised, practiced, or attempted to practice as a crematory authority
17 under another person's name.

18 (f) Violated this subchapter or a rule promulgated under this subchapter.

19 **440.86 Penalties. (1)** Any person who violates this subchapter or a rule
20 promulgated under this subchapter may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned
21 for not more than 6 months or both.

22 **(2)** In addition to or in lieu of the penalties under sub. (1) and the remedies
23 under s. 440.85 (2), any person who violates this subchapter or a rule promulgated
24 under this subchapter may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 for each
25 violation. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate violation.

