

A Bill for an Act Relating to Funeral Assistance Payments.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to section 27-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the burial or disposal of unclaimed corpses is identified as a state function. The department of human services, as provided by section 346-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, has authority to pay for burial services, including cremation.

The purpose of this Act is to allow the respective county medical examiner or coroner to submit an application for funeral payments under the department’s funeral payment program on behalf of an unclaimed corpse after sixty days from the date of death of the deceased.

SECTION 2. Section 346-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending the title and subsection (a) to read:

“§346-15 Burial of deceased [public] medical or financial assistance recipients or unclaimed corpses. (a) The department of human services may bear the cost of the burial of deceased [public] medical or financial assistance recipients or unclaimed corpses. Burial services include the customary mortuary, crematory, cemetery, and other services essential in providing a dignified burial.”

2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

“(e) The person [making] submitting an application for funeral payments under the department’s funeral payment program, on behalf of a deceased medical or financial assistance recipient ~~[or for an unclaimed corpse]~~, shall have sixty days from the date of death of the deceased to submit the application for funeral payments to the department. This subsection shall not apply to applications submitted by the respective county medical examiner or coroner on behalf of unclaimed corpses.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved April 26, 2001.)