

1 AN ACT relating to cremation of dead bodies.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 72.450 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) A coroner who has possession of a dead body or a part thereof shall make a bona
5 fide attempt to notify the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent's death. In
6 the event the coroner is unable to locate the spouse, if any, or next of kin, he or she
7 may cause the body to be buried or cremated at the expense of the fiscal court,
8 consolidated local government, or urban-county government, whichever is
9 appropriate. The decision between burial or cremation shall be made by the
10 coroner, fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county
11 government that has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection.
- 12 (2) In the event the body is buried or cremated at public expense, the coroner shall take
13 possession of all money or other property found on or belonging to the decedent
14 and shall deliver same to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-
15 county government, whichever is appropriate. Any money or other property found
16 on the body of the decedent or belonging to him or her shall be delivered by the
17 coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county
18 government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial or cremation expenses.
19 Any excess funds shall escheat to such governmental agency one (1) year
20 thereafter.
- 21 (3) In lieu of having an unclaimed body buried or cremated at public expense, the
22 coroner may deliver such body or part thereof to a state medical school in
23 accordance with the provisions of KRS 311.300 to 311.350.

Part I: Measure Information

Most fiscal courts establish a reimbursable allowance per burial. It is expected that fiscal courts would establish lower reimbursement rates for cremations as well if the measure is enacted.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky Coroners Association

Preparer: JB **Reviewer:** MS (MDA) **Date:** 2/17/25

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the Kentucky
Coroners Association

for the
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6 death. In the event the coroner is unable to locate the spouse, if any, or next of
7 kin, he or she may cause the body to be buried or cremated at the expense of
8 the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county government,
9 whichever is appropriate.

10 (b) The decision between burial or cremation shall be made by the coroner,
11 fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county government
12 that has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection.

13 (c) If a fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county
14 government has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection it
15 shall consult with the county coroner before it makes the decision between
16 burial and cremation.

17 (2) In the event the body is buried or cremated at public expense, the coroner shall take
18 possession of all money or other property found on or belonging to the decedent
19 and shall deliver same to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-
20 county government, whichever is appropriate. Any money or other property found
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27 coroner may deliver such body or part thereof to a state medical school in

1 accordance with the provisions of KRS 311.300 to 311.350.

Data Source(s): LRC Staff, Kentucky Coroners Association

Preparer: JB **Reviewer:** (MDA) **Date:** 2/7/25

SENATE

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Unofficial Document

Amend printed copy of SB 37/SCS 1

On page 1, line 5, after "attempt" by inserting "of at least six (6) months"; and

On Page 1, line 14, after "subsection" by inserting "1"; and

On page 1, line 15, after "shall" by inserting the following:

"1

I. "; and

On page 1, line 15, after the first occurrence of "the" by inserting "local"; and

On page 1, line 16, by deleting the ":" and replacing in lieu thereof "; and"; and

On page 1, between lines 16 and 17, by inserting the following:

"2. If the dead body or a part thereof is known to be of Jewish descent, contact

the Chabad of the Bluegrass or any successor entity to inquire if it wants to

Amendment No. pay for the burial expense."

Committee Amendment

Floor Amendment

Adopted

Rejected

Amendment No. SFA

Rep. Sen. Lindsey Tichenor

Committee Amendment

Floor Amendment

Adopted:

Signed:

LRC Drafter:

Date:

Rejected:

Doc. ID: XXXX

