

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)** A coroner who has possession of a dead body or a part thereof shall make a  
5 bona fide attempt to notify the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent's  
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  
21 on the body of the decedent or belonging to him or her shall be delivered by the  
22 coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county  
23 government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial **or cremation** expenses.  
24 Any excess funds shall escheat to such governmental agency one (1) year  
25 thereafter.

26 (3) In lieu of having an unclaimed body buried **or cremated** at public expense, the  
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.