

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

10           *(b) The decision between burial or cremation shall be made by the fiscal court,  
11           consolidated local government, or urban-county government that has  
12           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:*

16           *1. Consult with the local county coroner before it makes the decision  
17           between burial and cremation; and*

18           *2. If the dead body or a part thereof is known to be:*

19           *a. Of Jewish descent, contact the Chabad of the Bluegrass or any  
20           successor entity to inquire if it wants to pay for the burial  
21           expense; or*

22           *b. A member of a religious community, contact any such religious  
23           community that has expressed, in writing, a willingness to the  
24           local county coroner that it will pay for, or otherwise provide, the  
25           burial expense of the community's members.*

26    (2) In the event the body is buried or cremated at public expense, the coroner shall take  
27           possession of all money or other property found on or belonging to the decedent

1 and shall deliver same to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-  
2 county government, whichever is appropriate. Any money or other property found  
3 on the body of the decedent or belonging to him or her shall be delivered by the  
4 coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county  
5 government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial **or cremation** expenses.  
6 Any excess funds shall escheat to such governmental agency one (1) year  
7 thereafter.

8 (3) In lieu of having an unclaimed body buried **or cremated** at public expense, the  
9 coroner may deliver such body or part thereof to a state medical school in  
10 accordance with the provisions of KRS 311.300 to 311.350.