

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 24-0568.01 Jery Payne x2157

HOUSE BILL 24-1335

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Soper and Titone**, Clifford, Frizell, Lieder, Lindstedt, Ricks

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Roberts and Gardner**,

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**House Committees**  
Business Affairs & Labor

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF THE REGULATION OF PERSONS**  
102            **RELATED TO THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF DECEASED HUMAN**  
103            **BODIES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IMPLEMENTING THE**  
104            **RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 2023 SUNSET REPORT BY THE**  
105            **DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Sunset Process - House Business Affairs and Labor Committee.** The bill implements the recommendations of the department

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

of regulatory agencies (department) concerning the mortuary science code (code), as the recommendations are specified in the department's sunset review of the registration of funeral establishments and crematories, as follows:

- **Sections 1 and 2** of the bill continue registration of funeral establishments and crematories and the title protection of mortuary science practitioners, funeral directors, embalmers, and cremationists until 2031;
- **Section 3:**
  - Requires the inspection of funeral homes and crematories on a routine basis and for a period of time after the business has ceased operations for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the code during this time; and
  - Repeals the limitation on the authority of the director of the division of professions and occupations (director) to inspect funeral homes and crematories only during business hours;
- **Sections 3 and 4** expand the director's authority to promulgate rules to include any rules necessary to administer the code;
- **Section 3** repeals the code's stakeholder engagement provisions for rule-making to allow the "State Administrative Procedure Act" to control stakeholder engagement;
- **Section 3:**
  - Adds the failure to respond to a complaint within the appropriate time to the grounds for discipline; and
  - Repeals the requirement that a letter of admonition be sent by certified mail;
- **Section 5** authorizes the director to suspend the registration of a person that fails to comply with the condition of a stipulation or order;
- **Sections 6 and 7** replace the term "applicant" with the term "person" in the title-protection provisions for funeral directors, embalmers, and cremationists; and
- **Sections 8 through 11** remove gendered language from the code.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-135-406

1 as follows:

2 **12-135-406. Repeal - subject to review.** Sections 12-135-110,  
3 12-135-111, 12-135-303, and 12-135-304 and this part 4 are repealed,  
4 effective ~~July 1, 2024~~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2031. Before the repeal, the  
5 regulation of persons registered to practice cremation and mortuary  
6 science is scheduled for review in accordance with section 24-34-104.

7 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-34-104, **amend**  
8 (25)(a)(XIII); and **add** (32)(a)(XI) as follows:

9 **24-34-104. General assembly review of regulatory agencies**  
10 **and functions for repeal, continuation, or reestablishment - legislative**  
11 **declaration - repeal.** (25) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both,  
12 are scheduled for repeal on September 1, 2024:

13 (XIII) ~~The regulation of persons registered to practice mortuary~~  
14 ~~science by sections 12-135-110 and 12-135-111 and cremation by~~  
15 ~~sections 12-135-303 and 12-135-304, and the administration thereof in~~  
16 ~~accordance with part 4 of article 135 of title 12, and The regulation of~~  
17 nontransplant tissue banks by section 12-140-103;

18 (32) (a) The following agencies, functions, or both, are scheduled  
19 for repeal on September 1, 2031:

20 (XI) THE FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF  
21 PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS RELATED TO THE REGISTRATION OF  
22 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-135-110 AND  
23 CREMATORIES SPECIFIED IN SECTION 12-135-303 AND TO THE TITLE  
24 PROTECTIONS SPECIFIED IN SECTIONS 12-135-111 AND 12-135-304.

25 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-401, **amend**  
26 (1) introductory portion, (1)(b), (1)(c), (3)(a), and (6); and **add** (1)(d) as  
27 follows:

1           **12-135-401. Powers and duties of the director - rules.** (1) The  
2 director may deny, suspend, refuse to renew, or revoke a registration  
3 pursuant to section 12-20-404 (1)(d); issue and send ~~by certified mail,~~ a  
4 letter of admonition to a funeral establishment or crematory under the  
5 circumstances specified in and in accordance with section 12-20-404 (4);  
6 issue a confidential letter of concern to a funeral establishment or  
7 crematory under the circumstance specified in section 12-20-404 (5);  
8 place a registered funeral establishment or crematory on probation  
9 pursuant to section 12-20-404 (1)(b); or limit the scope of practice of the  
10 registration of a funeral establishment or crematory under this article 135  
11 that has:

12           (b) Had a registration issued by Colorado, or an equivalent  
13 license, registration, or certification issued by another state, to practice  
14 mortuary science or to embalm or cremate human remains revoked; ~~or~~

15           (c) Violated this article 135, an applicable provision of article 20  
16 of this title 12, or any rule of the director adopted under this article 135;  
17 OR

18           (d) FAILED TO RESPOND TO A COMPLAINT WITHIN THE LENGTH OF  
19 TIME SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICE TO THE REGISTRANT OF THE COMPLAINT.

20           (3) (a) (I) The director may investigate the activities of a funeral  
21 establishment or crematory upon the director's own initiative or upon  
22 receipt of a complaint or a suspected or alleged violation of this article  
23 135.

24           (II) THE DIRECTOR SHALL PERFORM ROUTINE INSPECTIONS OF ALL  
25 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND CREMATORIES ON A PERIODIC BASIS AS  
26 DETERMINED BY RULE. The director may contract with a private party to  
27 perform ~~an inspection~~ THESE INSPECTIONS.

1 (III) To perform an inspection, the director or a private party with  
2 whom the director contracts to perform the inspection may enter the  
3 premises of a funeral establishment or crematory with full right of ingress  
4 and egress: ~~during business hours.~~

5 (A) WHILE THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY IS  
6 REGISTERED; AND

7 (B) FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, AS DETERMINED BY RULE, AFTER A  
8 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT'S OR CREMATORY'S REGISTRATION HAS  
9 EXPIRED, HAS BEEN REVOKED, OR HAS BEEN SURRENDERED.

10 (IV) THE DIRECTOR SHALL PROMULGATE RULES DETERMINING THE  
11 PERIOD OF TIME AFTER A REGISTRATION IS NO LONGER VALID DURING  
12 WHICH TIME THE DIRECTOR OR A PRIVATE PARTY WITH WHOM THE  
13 DIRECTOR CONTRACTS MAY PERFORM INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE  
14 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY CONTINUES TO COMPLY WITH  
15 THIS ARTICLE 135 AND WINDS DOWN THE BUSINESS WITHOUT CREATING AN  
16 UNDUE RISK TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

17 (6) (a) The director may promulgate reasonable rules necessary to  
18 implement this section, ~~sections 12-135-110, 12-135-111, 12-135-303,~~  
19 ~~and 12-135-304, and this part 4~~ ARTICLE 135.

20 (b) ~~Before promulgating rules, the director shall seek input and~~  
21 ~~advice from a person, or any state professional organization of persons,~~  
22 ~~offering services that require registration pursuant to this article 135~~ IN  
23 PROMULGATING RULES UNDER THIS ARTICLE 135, THE DIRECTOR IS  
24 SUBJECT TO ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24.

25 (c) ~~Before promulgating rules, the director may seek input and~~  
26 ~~advice from a consumer representative who advocates for consumers~~  
27 ~~affected by this article 135.~~

1           **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-20-204, **amend**  
2 (2)(a); and **repeal** (2)(c) as follows:

3           **12-20-204. Regulator's rule-making authority.** (2) Subsection  
4 (1) of this section does not apply to the following:

5           (a) Article 110 of this title 12 concerning combative sports; AND

6           (c) ~~Article 135 of this title 12 concerning mortuaries and~~  
7 ~~crematories; and~~

8           **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-135-403  
9 as follows:

10           **12-135-403. Cease-and-desist orders - orders and stipulations**  
11 **- suspension - procedure.** (1) The director may issue cease-and-desist  
12 orders under the circumstances and in accordance with the procedures  
13 specified in section 12-20-405.

14           (2) THE DIRECTOR MAY SUSPEND A REGISTRATION UPON THE  
15 FAILURE OF THE REGISTRANT TO COMPLY WITH ANY CONDITION OF A  
16 STIPULATION OR ORDER IMPOSED BY THE DIRECTOR UNTIL THE  
17 REGISTRANT COMPLIES WITH THE CONDITION.

18           **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-111, **amend**  
19 (2) introductory portion and (3) introductory portion as follows:

20           **12-135-111. Title protection.** (2) A person shall not advertise,  
21 represent, or hold oneself out as or use the title of a "funeral director"  
22 unless the ~~applicant~~ PERSON:

23           (3) A person shall not advertise, represent, or hold oneself out as  
24 or use the title of an "embalmer" unless the ~~applicant~~ PERSON:

25           **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 12-135-304  
26 as follows:

27           **12-135-304. Title protection.** A person shall not advertise,

1 represent, or hold oneself out as or use the title of a "cremationist" unless  
2 the ~~applicant~~ PERSON has at least five hundred hours practicing or  
3 interning as a cremationist and has cremated at least fifty human remains.

4 **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-111, **amend**  
5 (1) introductory portion as follows:

6 **12-135-111. Title protection.** (1) A person shall not advertise,  
7 represent, or hold ~~himself or herself~~ ONESELF out as or use the title of a  
8 "mortuary science practitioner" unless the person:

9 **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-105, **amend**  
10 (1)(d) as follows:

11 **12-135-105. Unlawful acts.** (1) It is unlawful:

12 (d) For a person in the business of paying for or providing death  
13 benefits, funerals, funeral ceremonies, final dispositions, or preneed  
14 contracts to pay or provide benefits in a manner that ~~deprives~~ LIMITS THE  
15 FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE the next of kin or legal representative  
16 ~~of the right to~~ CAN use those payments or benefits; ~~at a funeral~~  
17 ~~establishment of his or her choice;~~

18 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-109, **amend**  
19 (4)(b) as follows:

20 **12-135-109. Exceptions - safe harbor.** (4) If a funeral director,  
21 mortuary science practitioner, or embalmer has acted in good faith, the  
22 funeral director, mortuary science practitioner, or embalmer may rely on  
23 a signed statement from a person with the right of final disposition under  
24 section 15-19-106 that:

25 (b) The person has made a reasonable effort under section  
26 15-19-106 to contact each person with the right of final disposition and  
27 to learn ~~his or her~~ EACH PERSON'S wishes; and

1           **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-135-302, **amend**  
2 (1)(b) as follows:

3           **12-135-302. Exceptions - safe harbor.** (1) If a crematory has  
4 acted in good faith, the crematory may rely on a signed statement from a  
5 person with the right of final disposition under section 15-19-106 that:

6           (b) The person has made a reasonable effort under section  
7 15-19-106 to contact each person with the right of final disposition and  
8 to learn ~~his or her~~ EACH PERSON'S wishes; and

9           **SECTION 12. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
10 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
12 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
13 institutions.