



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 554: Funeral Practice Licensure Tech. Corrections.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 26, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Boles, Alexander, Hunter, Jones	Prepared by:	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 554 would make a number of changes to the laws governing the licensure and practice of funeral services, including:

- Make changes to the licensure examination requirements.
- Require that certificates of compliance for preneed funeral contracts be filed with the Board of Funeral Service.
- Require that crematory licensees comply with federal regulations for funeral industry practices and obtain necessary documentation before cremating an individual who died in another state.
- Require that all licensees comply with rules for the disposal of pacemakers and other hazardous devices.
- Provide that a medical professional who signs a death certificate is immune from civil liability so long as the cause of death is determined in good faith.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would:

- Make technical and clarifying changes to the licensure exam requirements for the practice of funeral service.
- Provide that a passing score on an exam taken prior to October 1, 2018, is good for five years.
- Provide that a resident traineeship completed prior to October 1, 2018, is good for five years.
- Require licensees who accept transfers of preneed funeral contracts to file a certificate of compliance with the Board of Funeral Service.
- Require crematory licensees to comply with the federal Funeral Industry Practices in C.F.R. § 453.
- Require all licensees to comply with all regulations regarding the removal of pacemakers or other hazardous devices.

Section 2 would prohibit crematory licensees from cremating individuals who died outside North Carolina without obtaining a burial transit form.

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Section 3 would make physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who sign death certificates immune from civil liability, provided that they do not act with wanton conduct or intentional wrongdoing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The technical and clarifying changes to licensure exam requirements, the provision that a passing score on an exam taken prior to October 1, 2018, is good for five years, and the provision that a resident traineeship completed prior to October 1, 2018, is good for five years would become effective when the act becomes law and apply to licenses granted on or after that date. The remainder of the act would become effective June 30, 2019, and the provisions that apply to cremations would apply to cremations on or after that date.