



SENATE BILL 245: The Rakim Shackelford Embalming Fluid Act.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. B. Newton, Lazzara, Brinson	Prepared by:	Robert Ryan
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 245 would amend Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to create new criminal offenses related to the unlawful sale of and possession of embalming fluid.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 2 of the bill defines the term "embalming fluid" and makes other technical changes.

Section 3 of the bill would amend Article 13A (Practice of Funeral Service) of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to create a new criminal offense making it a Class I felony for a funeral director, embalmer, or resident trainee to knowingly give, sell, permit to be sold, offer for sale, or display for sale embalming fluid to another person with actual knowledge the person is not a funeral director, embalmer, or resident trainee.

Section 4 of the bill would amend Chapter 90 of the General Statutes by adding Article 5I (Miscellaneous Drug-Related Regulations) to create the following new criminal offenses:

- Making it unlawful to possess embalming fluid for any purpose other than the lawful preservation of dead human bodies or wildlife.
- Making it unlawful to sell, deliver, or distribute embalming fluid to another person with knowledge the person intends to use the embalming fluid for any purpose other than the lawful preservation of dead human bodies or wildlife.

Punishment for both Article 5I offenses depend on the amount of embalming fluid involved as follows:

- Less than 28 grams is a Class I felony.
- 28 grams to 199 grams is a Class G felony.
- 200 grams to 399 grams is a Class F felony.
- 400 or more grams is a Class D felony.

Section 5 of the bill grants limited immunity from prosecution to overdose victims and people who seek medical attention for overdose victims where the embalming fluid violation is punishable as a Class I felony.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

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Legislative Analysis
Division
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