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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER
AND FUNERAL SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS

Introduced By: Senator Melissa A. Murray

Date Introduced: March 04, 2026

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

(Dept. of Health)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 5-33.2-13 and 5-33.2-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-33.2
2 entitled "Funeral Director/Embalmer and Funeral Service Establishments" are hereby amended to
3 read as follows:

4 **5-33.2-13. Funeral establishment and branch officer — Crematories — Inspections**
5 **— Denial of access.**

6 (a) Any licensed funeral director/embalmer employed, authorized, and empowered by the
7 division of professional regulation may enter any funeral establishment, funeral-establishment
8 branch office, or crematory licensed under the provisions of this chapter, during the hours the
9 funeral establishment, funeral-establishment branch office, or crematory is open for business, for
10 the purpose of inspecting the sanitary conditions, complaint investigations, and ascertaining if the
11 provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations are being observed in the operation of the
12 funeral establishment, funeral-establishment branch office, or crematory. The inspector may
13 request permission from the department to be accompanied by another employee of the department
14 of health prior to an inspection. Failure or refusal of the person in charge of that funeral
15 establishment, funeral-establishment branch office, or crematory to permit the inspection at all
16 reasonable times shall be deemed sufficient cause for the revocation of any license issued to the
17 funeral establishment, funeral-establishment branch office, or crematory and any certificate of
18 approval issued by the division.

1 (b) Funeral establishments and branch offices and crematories licensed under the
2 provisions of this chapter shall be inspected at least ~~twice~~ once each year. Inspections shall include
3 all areas of sanitation and public health, complaint investigations, as well as conformity with
4 applicable section of this chapter and the rules and regulations.

5 **5-33.2-26. Licensure by endorsement.**

6 Any funeral director/embalmer who is currently licensed in good standing in another state
7 may be licensed by endorsement in Rhode Island. Every funeral director/embalmer seeking such
8 licensure must also be a graduate of a mortuary college, must have passed the funeral director and
9 embalmer portions of the written examination of the national board. Furthermore, every funeral
10 director/embalmer must comply with all requirements of ~~chapter 5-33~~ chapter 33.2 of title 5 and
11 ~~successfully complete~~ have satisfactorily passed a practical examination ~~in Rhode Island~~. Anyone
12 licensed in another state prior to 1985 is hereby exempt from the National Board Examination
13 requirements set forth in this section.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- FUNERAL DIRECTOR/EMBALMER
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- 1 This act would reduce funeral home inspections from twice a year to once a year and
- 2 remove the practical exam requirement for out-of-state funeral directors and embalmers.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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