

SENATE BILL NO. 129

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Morrissey)

A BILL to direct the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to convene a work group to determine how to regulate and implement the process of alkaline hydrolysis in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers (the Board) shall convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to determine the (i) regulatory and statutory changes needed to legalize, implement, and regulate the process of alkaline hydrolysis in the Commonwealth; (ii) necessary qualifications to enable a person to engage in the practice of aquamation; (iii) proper standards for the operation of an aquatorium; and (iv) proper requirements for licensure as an aquamator. In conducting its study, the work group shall consider any necessary environmental precautions and safety measures to ensure proper (a) regulation and implementation of the aquamation process and (b) regulation and inspection of aquatoriums in the Commonwealth. The Board shall report the results of such study to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions on or before November 1, 2022.

§ 2. For purposes of this act:

"Alkaline hydrolysis" or "aquamation" means a water-based process of dissolution using alkaline chemicals and agitation.

"Aquamator" means a person or establishment that owns or operates an aquatorium.

"Aquatorium" means a facility containing a pressure vessel for the aquamation of dead human bodies.

2. That the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers shall promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act to be effective on July 1, 2023.

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