

SENATE BILL 1342

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62,  
Chapter 5, relative to proper preservation of the  
remains of a dead human body.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 62-5-313, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (f):

(f) A funeral establishment that receives a dead human body to properly prepare for burial and care for prior to conducting a funeral service shall store or make arrangements to have the dead human body stored in a cold storage vault at a temperature approved by the board which will keep the dead human body from further decomposition if a funeral director receives a dead human body later than twenty-four (24) hours post mortem and:

(1) The preference of the next of kin is that the dead human body not be embalmed and the funeral service and burial of such body will not occur within twenty-four (24) hours from the time the funeral establishment receives or takes possession of the dead human body. Such body shall remain in the cold storage vault until shortly before the funeral service and burial of such body is scheduled to occur; or

(2) The dead human body is in such a condition that embalmment has not or cannot prevent the further decomposition of the body and it would be obvious to a reasonable person that the dead human body should be properly stored in a cold storage vault to prevent further decomposition until shortly before the funeral service and burial of such body is scheduled to occur.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.