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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2025**

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**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session**

**By** House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representative Appleton)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1            AN ACT Relating to the sale and commercial display of human  
2 remains; amending RCW 68.50.130; creating a new section; prescribing  
3 penalties; and providing an effective date.

4            BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The sale or display of human remains  
6 exclusively for commercial purposes is offensive to community  
7 standards of decency. The public outcry against the sale and display  
8 of human remains reminds us of the basic dignity that all human  
9 remains should be granted. The legislature through this act does not  
10 intend to prevent legitimate medical, search and rescue training, or  
11 educational endeavors, or images in movies, television, or theaters,  
12 and believes the respectful treatment and disposal of human remains  
13 is compatible with those aims. The legislature does intend to  
14 prohibit the sale for profit of human remains and any commercial  
15 display for advertising or other benefit.

16            **Sec. 2.**    RCW 68.50.130 and 2005 c 365 s 139 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18            (1) Every person who performs a disposition of any human remains,  
19 except as otherwise provided by law, in any place, except in a  
20 cemetery or a building dedicated exclusively for religious purposes,

1 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Disposition of cremated human remains may  
2 also occur on private property, with the consent of the property  
3 owner; and on public or government lands or waters with the approval  
4 of the government agency that has either jurisdiction or control, or  
5 both, of the lands or waters.

6 (2) A person who sells or displays human remains exclusively for  
7 commercial purposes is guilty of a class C felony.

8 (3) Nothing in this section prohibits the sale, display, or  
9 possession of human remains:

10 (a) For legitimate medical studies, search and rescue training,  
11 displays by a museum as defined under RCW 63.26.010, educational  
12 endeavors, or uses by the motion picture industry for purposes of  
13 displaying images in movies, television, or theaters.

14 (b) By authorized search and rescue personnel for the purpose of  
15 training human remains detection canines. For the purposes of this  
16 subsection, "authorized search and rescue personnel" means personnel  
17 registered as emergency workers with their county's department of  
18 emergency management who deploy at the direction of law enforcement  
19 agencies.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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