

Chapter 419

(House Bill 431)

AN ACT concerning

Health – ~~Reporting of Death and~~ Burial or Disposal of Body – Requirements and Penalties

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring certain individuals who have personal knowledge of the death of another individual or who have personally discovered a body to provide certain notice of the death within a certain time period to a certain law enforcement officer;~~ prohibiting an individual from burying or disposing of a body except in a certain manner; establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to ~~reporting a death and~~ burying or disposing of a body.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Health – General
Section 5–101
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Health – General
Section 5–514
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

5–101.

In this title, “body” means a dead human body.

5–514.

~~(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEATH OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL OR WHO HAS PERSONALLY DISCOVERED A BODY SHALL PROVIDE, IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE, NOTICE OF THE DEATH WITHIN 4 HOURS AFTER ACQUIRING THE KNOWLEDGE OR MAKING THE DISCOVERY TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AS DEFINED IN § 3-101 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.~~

~~(2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A REASONABLE BELIEF THAT NOTICE OF THE DEATH PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(B)~~ (A) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT BURY OR DISPOSE OF A BODY EXCEPT:

- (1) IN A FAMILY BURIAL PLOT OR OTHER AREA ALLOWED BY A LOCAL ORDINANCE;
- (2) IN A CREMATORY;
- (3) IN A CEMETERY;
- (4) BY DONATING THE BODY TO MEDICAL SCIENCE; OR
- (5) BY REMOVING THE BODY TO ANOTHER STATE FOR FINAL DISPOSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE OTHER STATE.

~~(C)~~ (B) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.