

HOUSE BILL 374

By Womick

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-4-103, relative to the disposition of unclaimed or pauper bodies at public expense.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-4-103(c), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following language:

(c) If the chief medical examiner or the chief medical examiner's representative, upon receipt of the notification, does not, within twenty-four (24) hours, make a demand for the body, then it shall be buried or cremated. When an unclaimed body is to be buried at public expense, the county mayor, pursuant to the appropriation of funds for burial or cremation expenses by the county legislative body pursuant to § 5-9-101(4), is authorized to dispose of the body by way of cremation or burial notwithstanding any objection to the contrary. The cremated remains may be placed in either an urn or temporary container, which may be interred, entombed, or inurned at the direction of the county mayor. A rigid receptacle or rigid container shall not be a mandatory requirement for the burial, entombment, or other final disposition of the remains of a person cremated or buried pursuant to this subsection (c).

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