
HOUSE BILL 2470

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representative Appleton

1 AN ACT Relating to coroners and medical examiners regarding death
2 investigations; and amending RCW 68.50.050 and 68.50.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.050 and 2011 c 96 s 48 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Any person, not authorized or directed by the coroner or ((his or
7 her)) their deputies, who ((removes the body of a deceased person not
8 claimed by a relative or friend, or who came to their death by reason
9 of violence or from unnatural causes or where there shall exist
10 reasonable grounds for the belief that such death has been caused by
11 unlawful means at the hands of another)) moves, disturbs, molests, or
12 interferes with the human remains coming within the jurisdiction of
13 the coroner or medical examiner as provided in RCW 68.50.010, to any
14 undertaking rooms or elsewhere, or any person who directs, aids or
15 abets such moving, disturbing, molesting, or taking, and any person
16 who in any way conceals the ((body of a deceased person for the
17 purpose of taking the same to any undertaking rooms or elsewhere,
18 shall in each of said cases be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and upon
19 conviction thereof shall be punished by fine of not more than one
20 thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for up to
21 three hundred sixty-four days or by both fine and imprisonment in the

1 ~~discretion of the court~~) human remains, is guilty of a gross
2 misdemeanor in each such case.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 68.50.020 and 1987 c 331 s 55 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 It (~~shall be~~) is the duty of every person who knows of the
6 existence and location of (~~a dead body~~) human remains coming under
7 the jurisdiction of the coroner or medical examiner as set forth in
8 RCW 68.50.010, to notify the coroner or medical examiner thereof in
9 the most expeditious manner possible, unless such person (~~shall~~
10 ~~have~~) has good reason to believe that such notice has already been
11 given. Any person knowing of the existence of such (~~dead body~~)
12 human remains and not having good reason to believe that the coroner
13 or medical examiner has notice thereof and who (~~shall~~) fails to
14 give such notice to the coroner (~~as aforesaid, shall be~~) or medical
15 examiner, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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