
Call to Order – *Mia Mimms, JD, FSL, Board President and Panel Chair*

- Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

- Regulatory Advisory Panel – August 14, 2020

Public Comment

The Board will receive public comment on agenda items at this time. The Board will not receive comment on any pending regulation process for which a public comment period has closed or any pending or closed complaint or disciplinary matter.

******For more information and instructions related to public comment, please refer to page 2 of the Agenda******

Charge of Regulatory Advisory Panel – *Mia Mimms*

Panel Discussion

- **Review of August 14, 2020 RAP Meeting – Possible Recommendations and Draft Regulatory Language** – *Corie E. Tillman Wolf, JD, Executive Director*
- **Panel Discussion of Recommendations to Full Board** – *Mia Mimms*

Wrap Up and Next Steps – *Mia Mimms*

Meeting Adjournment

This information is in **DRAFT** form and is subject to change. The official agenda and packet will be approved by the public body at the meeting and will be available to the public pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3707(F).

Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Instructions for Accessing the September 1, 2020 Virtual Regulatory Advisory Panel Meeting and Providing Public Comment

- **Access:** Perimeter Center building access remains restricted to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To observe this virtual meeting, use one of the options below. Participation capacity is limited and is on a first come, first serve basis due to the capacity of CISCO WebEx technology.
- **Written Public Comment:** Written comments are **strongly preferred** due to the limits of the electronic meeting platform and should be received by email to Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov no later than 12:00 noon on August 31, 2020. The written comments will be made available to the Board members for review prior to the meeting.
- **Oral Public Comment:** Oral comments will be received during the full board meeting from persons who have submitted an email to Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov no later than 12:00 noon on August 31, 2020 indicating that they wish to offer oral comment. Comment may be offered by these individuals when their name is announced by the Board President.
- Public participation connections will be muted following the public comment period.
- Please call from a location without background noise.
- Dial (804) 367-4479 to report an interruption during the broadcast.
- FOIA Council Electronic Meetings Public Comment form for submitting feedback on this electronic meeting may be accessed at <http://foiacouncil.dls.virginia.gov/sample%20letters/welcome.htm>

JOIN BY AUDIO ONLY

+1-517-466-2023 US Toll

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Meeting number (access code): 171 591 3201

JOIN THE INTERACTIVE MEETING:

Click or copy one of the links below:

<https://covaconf.webex.com/covaconf/j.php?MTID=m62dc0179f79f2a336238a557041baa75>

The Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers convened virtually via WebEx for a Regulatory Advisory Panel meeting on Friday, August 14, 2020, with staff coordination on-site at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mia Mimms, FSL, JD, Board President, Panel Chair (On-Site)
R. Thomas Slusser, Jr., FSL, Board Vice-President (Virtual)
Kenneth Scott Hickey, M.D., Board Secretary Treasurer, Citizen Member (Virtual)
Joseph Frank Walton, FSL, Board Member/Educator (On-Site)
Paul Harris, Regulatory Support Services, Inc. (Virtual)
Barry Robinson, FSL, Virginia Mortician's Association (Virtual)
Laurence Spiaggi, FSL, Virginia Funeral Directors' Association* (Virtual)
John Paul Welch, FSL, Representative, Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia (Virtual)

DHP STAFF PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:

Erin Barrett, Assistant Attorney General, Board Counsel (Virtual)
David Brown, DC, DHP Director (Virtual)
Sarah Georgen, Licensing and Operations Manager (On-Site)
Kelley Palmatier, Deputy Executive Director (Virtual)
Corie Tillman Wolf, Executive Director (On-Site)
Heather Wright, Board Program Manager (On-Site)
Matt Treacy, Media Production Specialist (Virtual)

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT (VIRTUAL)

Suja Amir
Imam Ammar Amonette
Angela Bezik, Virginia Funeral Directors' Association
Chuck Duvall
Jerry Gentile
Muhammad Hanif, Citizen Member
Caressa Hughes
Scott Johnson
Jamie Karpa, FSL*
Bruce Keeney, Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia
Malena Llanos
Hon. Jeremy McPike, Senate of Virginia
Blair Nelsen, FSL, Board Member*
Dalene Paull, The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards
Dianne Rencsok, Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Virginia Blue Ridge

Samuel Rhue, Sr., FSL*

Amir Saeed

Lauren Thomas, The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards

Ben Traynham

Lacy Whitaker, Virginia Funeral Directors' Association

Joseph Michael Williams, FSL, Board Member

Unknown Call-in User 6 (804-240-****)

Unknown Call-in User 7 (804-337-****)

Unknown Call-in User 8 (number unknown)

Unknown Call-in User 9 (804-928-****)

Unknown Call-in User 10 (757-749-****)

Unknown Call-in User 11 (571-437-****)

**participant indicates attendance to count toward continuing education requirements*

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mimms called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Due to the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and consistent with Amendment 28 to HB29 (Budget Bill for 2018-2020) and the applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act including Virginia Code § 2.2-3708.2, the Board convened a virtual meeting to consider such regulatory and business matters as was presented on the agenda necessary for the board to discharge its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Ms. Mimms provided the Board members, staff, and the public with contact information should the electronic meeting be interrupted.

Ms. Mimms provided reminders to the Board and public regarding WebEx functions. She completed a roll call of the panel members and staff.

Ms. Mimms read the mission of the Board, which is also the mission of the Department of Health Professions.

ORDERING OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Mimms requested proposed changes to the ordering of the agenda. Hearing none, she proceeded with the meeting.

OPENING COMMENTS – Hon. Jeremy McPike, Senate of Virginia

Ms. Mimms welcomed the Honorable Jeremy McPike, Senate of Virginia, and patron of Senate Bill 1044 to offer opening comments for the meeting.

Senator McPike explained his legislative intent behind SB1044.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mimms stated that written public comment had been received from the following individuals:

1. Bruce B. Keeney, Sr., Legislative Counsel, Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia
2. Dr. M. Farooq, President, Islamic Center/Northern Virginia Trust
3. Allison Carpenter, Chair, Interfaith Programs Committee, McLean Islamic Center
4. Josh Slocum, Executive Director, Funeral Consumers Alliance
5. Chavela Painter
6. Armeke Smith
7. Donita Greene
8. Unknown Commenter, Cooper and Humbles
9. Fisher Watkins
10. Sandra Hairston
11. Wendal Givens
12. Maya Ivory
13. Rhonda Pleasants
14. Mary Johnson Fields

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that one additional written public comment from Suja Amir was received after the deadline and read the comment submitted.

Ms. Mimms stated that the written public comments received by the deadline had been distributed to the panel members prior to the meeting and would be included in the meeting minutes (Attachment A).

Ms. Mimms noted that there were no requests received to provide oral public comment.

ISLAMIC JURISPRUDENCE AND BURIAL REQUIREMENTS – Imam Ammar Amonette, Islamic Center of Virginia

Ms. Mimms welcomed Imam Ammar Amonette from the Islamic Center of Virginia to provide information to the panel members regarding Islamic jurisprudence and burial requirements.

Imam Amonette explained the religious bases for funeral practices in Islam in the context of the bifurcation of funeral licenses.

CHARGE OF THE RAP

Ms. Mimms stated that the Regulatory Advisory Panel (RAP) was convened pursuant to 18VAC65-11-70 of the Board's Regulations related to Public Participation. Ms. Mimms stated that this RAP was convened for the purposes set forth in regulation - to convene stakeholders and other individuals interested in this issue to provide input and technical assistance to the Board regarding the Board's adoption of regulations for the licensure of funeral directors and embalmers as separate license types.

Ms. Mimms stated that the intent of the meeting was to set the stage or build the foundation for the discussion and ultimate recommendations by looking at the available data on funeral directors and embalmers, current statutes and regulations related to licensure, both in Virginia as well as in neighboring states and states with

a separated licensure system, current internship requirements, and examples for education, examination and experience.

Ms. Mimms asked the panel members to consider the following questions during the meeting:

- What requirements for education for a funeral director or for an embalmer will ensure safety and competence to practice in these respective areas?
- What requirements for examination for a funeral director or for an embalmer will demonstrate entry-level safety and competence to practice in these respective areas?
- What should a required internship experience look like for a funeral director? For an embalmer?

Ms. Mimms stated that in addition to the examples for education, examination, and experience, there may be other regulatory areas that require discussion and recommendation, such as possible concerns about scope of practice within the context of unprofessional conduct for purposes of Board disciplinary action, and if there were any clarifying edits needed in the current regulations to address all three license types.

PRESENTATIONS OF INFORMATION

Current Laws and Regulations for Licensure and State Comparisons

Ms. Mimms welcomed Ms. Tillman Wolf, Executive Director of the Board. Ms. Tillman Wolf provided a presentation of the current laws and regulations for licensure and state comparisons. Ms. Tillman Wolf provided a brief background regarding the current scheme of licensure, as well as an overview of the statutes and regulations that currently address funeral directors and embalmers in addition to funeral service licensees. She introduced the three primary areas required for licensure – education, examination, and experience, and provided an overview of current requirements that exist for licensure in other states.

Education, Examination, and Experience Requirements

Ms. Tillman Wolf provided information regarding the education, examination, and experience requirements that exist in Virginia and across the country, including an overview of current accreditation requirements through the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), examination requirements through the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, and current internship requirements.

Mr. Walton stated that the ABFSE currently does not accredit any funeral director only program. He stated that the ABFSE expressed an openness to accrediting a funeral-director only associates degree program in the future.

PANEL DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Mimms asked the panel to focus on the questions asked at the beginning of the meeting to start the overall discussion.

What requirements for education for a funeral director or for an embalmer will ensure safety and competence to practice in these respective areas?

The panel discussed possible recommendations for the education required for a funeral director and for an embalmer, including level of education, and whether funeral directors should be required to take certain science-based courses.

What requirements for examination for a funeral director or for an embalmer will demonstrate entry-level safety and competence to practice in these respective areas?

The panel discussed possible recommendations for examination requirements for a funeral director and for an embalmer, including national and state-level examinations.

What should a required internship experience look like for a funeral director? For an embalmer?

The panel discussed possible recommendations for the experience or internship requirements for a funeral director and for an embalmer, including the total number of hours, as well as the number of funerals and arrangements for a funeral director, and the number of embalmings for an embalmer.

BREAK

The Panel took a break at 10:51 a.m. The Panel reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

The meeting experienced a technical interruption at 11:14 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 11:18 a.m. (4 minutes, 13 seconds).

Ms. Tillman Wolf stated that she would draft recommendations discussed at the meeting for consideration at the next meeting (Attachment B).

NEXT STEPS

Ms. Mimms announced the next steps, including drafting initial recommendations for consideration by the Board and compiling information from the discussion and meeting.

Ms. Mimms said that the panel will review the specific regulatory requirements and possible draft language for recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.

Ms. Mimms asked that panel members continue to think about the same questions discussed in the meeting as they relate to the regulatory requirements for licensure.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Mimms announced that the next Regulatory Advisory Panel would be convened on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT:

Ms. Mimms provided the steps necessary for participants to be awarded continuing education for attendance of the meeting pursuant to 18 VAC 65-20-151. She announced that continuing education would be awarded to those participants who provided their first name, last name, license number, and the meeting code by email to fanbd@dhp.virginia.gov by August 21, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Mia Mimms, FSL, JD, Panel Chair

Corie Tillman Wolf, J.D., Executive Director

Date

Date

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 Glen Allen, VA 23060
 Phone (804) 643-0312
 Fax (804) 643-0311

IFHVOffice@gmail.com
www.ifhv.org



August 11, 2020

To: Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers and Its Regulatory Advisory Panel:

Comments of the Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia Related to the Promulgation of Regulations for Licensed Funeral Directors and Licensed Embalmers....

The Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia (IFHV) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in response to the Board promulgating regulations pursuant to SB 1044 of the 2020 (regular) session of the Virginia General Assembly. IFHV represents owners and managers of record of independently owned and operated funeral homes, many of which are family owned and operated and all actively serve and invest in the communities in which they are located.

In developing IFHV's recommendations, we relied on a highly publicized, well attended virtual meeting of IFHV firm owners and managers of record in which every participant provided comments. IFHV's recommendations represent the unanimous collective opinion of those participating in our virtual meeting (including owners and managers of record), and not just a Board of Directors, paid lobbyists, or a Task Force. Participation and input to IFHV included funeral establishments of every size, racial and gender and geographic diversity.

The opportunity to learn more about the Moslem faith's burial requirements, to be presented by Iman Ammar Amoretti, should be of interest to all. IFHV was previously advised the Moslem faith had concerns that current prerequisites for applicants as a funeral service licensee required demonstrating competency in embalming and that embalming is against the Moslem faith. **IFHV believes our recommendations address and resolve those concerns.** In the interim, IFHV recommends the Board of Funeral Directors, and perhaps their legal counsel, provide information as to what those of the Moslem faith may currently provide without a funeral service license. It is our understanding that if no fees or payment are received for transportation, storage and burial of remains, one is not required to be licensed. Additionally, some may not be aware that embalming is not required for burial. Such advice and counsel by the Board may provide options to the Iman which he may not be currently aware. They may also wish to communicate with the funeral homes in Northern Virginia which are currently licensed and operating in Northern Virginia, which we understand are owned by those of the Moslem faith.

It is important that the Regulatory Advisory Panel and the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers be reminded of **why funeral service providers are licensed as a health profession.** The mission of the Virginia Department of Health Professions is "to ensure safe and competent care" by licensed health professions. **Considering the health risks to the public concerning spread of contagious disease (including HIV and COVID19), handling of hazardous waste, etc., it is critical**

that those providing funeral services are fully and properly trained and educated to safely transport, handle, and prepare human remains for burial or cremation. Those functions are now and should remain under the “funeral service licensee” (and as appropriate, a licensed embalmer). However, those not handling human remains or embalming should be thoroughly knowledgeable about these processes so they may accurately present information to families making arrangements.

In Virginia, there are **3 different types of licensed funeral providers set forth in statute**, noting SB 1044 limits this regulatory process to just the last two listed. In general, they are:

- 1) **Funeral Service Licensee**: A graduate of an accredited mortuary school, completion of a supervised internship, passage of a National Board examination and a State Board exam. A funeral service licensee is then trained and competent to address the full range of all providing related products and services.
- 2) **Licensed Funeral Director** currently has no application process nor prerequisites for license in that this type of license is used to grandfather existing persons impacted from the last licensing structure change. In general, current Virginia law indicates a licensed Funeral Director can provide the same services as a “funeral service licensee,” except embalming and handling of dead human remains. Note this type of license specifically is tied to being paid for services and products. Thus, a “licensed funeral director,” under current Virginia law would most likely be prohibited from even touching the dead body.
- 3) **Licensed embalmer**, like the licensed funeral director, is tied to a grandfather provision. Note though Virginia law limits this type of license to embalming and restoration services, and does not include involvement with any other products or services.

The review of the current types of license set forth in the Virginia Code is important since regulations must comply with statutory definitions. Furthermore, regulations may clarify but not supersede statute.

IFHV’s recommendations, unanimously embraced by the IFHV “virtual meeting” of its members will:

- 1) Address the wishes of the Moslem faith so that they can be licensed to offer every funeral product and service (except handling human remains) without having to ever embalm a dead human body.
- 2) Address concerns about manpower shortages, especially in rural areas.
- 3) Set forth a shortened and more convenient process for licensing as a “Funeral Director.”
- 4) Maintain the delivery of funeral services by properly requiring varied levels of training which reflect the type of license and services rendered.
- 5) Maintain the protection, safety and health of the public, especially as related to infectious disease, HIV, COVID-14, hazardous waste, etc.

IFHV respectfully recommends (by regulatory change) the following:

- 1) Licensed “Funeral Director” be allowed to engage in and provide everything legally allowed by a “licensed service provider” EXCEPT EMBALMING and RESTORTATION SERVICES, and not handle dead human remains (this reflects current Virginia law.)

- a) The Funeral Director shall be under the direction of, supervised by and accountable (responsible) to a “Funeral Service Licensee” (both) affiliated with the same funeral establishment.
 - b) The Funeral Director shall not be required to perform or demonstrate competency in embalming (including not required to perform embalming as part of their training). However, the Funeral Director shall be educated and knowledgeable about the embalming and restoration process (to be able to competently explain the process to families making arrangements).
 - c) While the Funeral Director is not to engage in any embalming, restorative services of handling remains of dead human bodies, and while their education, training and examination will not be as comprehensive as a funeral service licensee, the applicant for Funeral Director license shall meet the following:
 - (i) Complete at an accredited school of mortuary the required didactic hours for a mortuary science associates degree, except for performing embalming. The applicant for this type of license shall be allowed to have accepted comparable course credit from other accredited colleges or universities, including online courses (i.e. Business Management, Anatomy, Chemistry, Infectious Disease). The Board, in consultation with the two mortuary schools accredited and located in Virginia, shall develop and maintain a list of such course requirements. No embalming lab is to be required.
 - (ii) Applicants for a Funeral Directors license shall pass a national board of which the questions, in determining passing rates, shall include knowledge and understanding but not the technical questions related to embalming. If the National Board includes questions applicable to demonstrating competency in performing embalming (and not knowledge of the embalming process), the Virginia Board consider not use of the national board for this type of exam and instead, develop and require an appropriate examination for Funeral Director.
 - (iii) Prior to applying for a license as a Funeral Director, the applicant shall complete an internship under the supervision of a funeral service licensee. Internship for Funeral Director shall not include actual embalming but may include observation of at least one embalming and one cremation.
 - (iv) Funeral Director shall pass the same Virginia Board exam required of a funeral service licensee (excluding embalming related questions other than those to demonstrate a general knowledge of the process.)
 - d) In that a “manager of record” has certain broad oversight and responsibilities and which require a full level of training and competency based examination, no Funeral Director shall be permitted to serve as a “Manager of Record” (this ensures that the Manager of Record be licensed to provide any and all services.)
- 2) Embalmer:
- a) The current statutory definition be retained as is.
 - b) The licensed embalmer applicant shall be required to complete Board approved courses related and necessary to provide embalming services safely and properly. In developing the required course and hands-on training, the Board shall work with the two accredited Mortuary Schools.

- c) The applicant's instruction shall include performing at least the same number of embalming procedures as required for licensure as a funeral service licensee.
- d) The applicant for an Embalmer's license shall complete embalm and restore at least 15 dead human remains which shall be under the supervision (an abbreviated internship) by either a Funeral Service Licensee or a Virginia licensed embalmer.
- e) The applicant for the Embalmer license shall successfully pass an examination in embalming either developed or accepted by the Board.
- f) If requested either by a Funeral Director or family making arrangements, the licensed Embalmer shall be reasonably available to explain their services to families seeking such information.
- g) The licensed Embalmer and their facilities in which they render services shall be subject to the same standards and inspections of "prep rooms" of a funeral establishment.

Thanks to the advance preparation of the Department's staff, the RAP and State Board now have a wealth of information as to the curriculum, national exams and even State exams already available and designed to address different types of license. IFHV believes there is sufficient and existing types of examinations for licenses as IFHV has recommended and in accordance with their suggested scope.

It may be that a delayed effective date may be necessary to allow the Board to finalize agreements with testing agencies (for national exams). Noteworthy are that IFHV's recommendations:

- should not need statutory changes,
- do fully address the intent of enabling legislation,
- do provide an opportunity to be licensed and serve families in providing specific funeral services for which one is trained and qualified,
- have the funeral service licensee as responsible for oversight of those who do not have their same, highest level of didactic and clinical training, and
- recognize those in the funeral profession as a health profession which protects the health and safety of the public, particularly as related to the transmission infectious disease and hazardous waste when handling human remains.

On behalf of the numerous members developing these recommendations, the Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia encourages your endorsement of these recommendations and welcomes any questions you may have in reviewing our proposal.

Bruce B. Keeney, Sr.
 Executive Director & Legislative Counsel
 Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia

BBK/lsm

AUG 11 2020

Dr. David E. Brown
Executive Director
Virginia Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463
bhp@dhp.virginia.gov

Corie E. Tillman Wolf
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
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cc: Senator Jeremy McPike

Dear Dr. Brown and Ms. Tillman Wolf,

As you know, observers of many faiths, including the Islamic tradition, do not embalm the bodies of their deceased. In fact we believe it violates the body of the departed and that engaging in the practice is a sin for Muslims. Although some faiths allow embalming, others consider it sacrilege. Therefore, we disagree that this practice should be a requirement for all funeral directors in the Commonwealth. The title of this Board distinguishes between "Funeral Directors" and "Embalmers," and the licenses should as well. There should be a separate license for embalmers that still allows funeral directors to serve as managers of funeral establishments.

Religious diversity in Virginia is one thing that makes our state special. Imagine for a moment that anyone issuing a marriage license must be able to perform a wedding ceremony in accordance with the Islamic tradition. For those officiating weddings for couples who are not Muslims, it would be unnecessary for them to complete educational and examination requirements for a service they will never be providing.


Hundreds of thousands of Muslims live in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A leader of the Muslim community must be appointed to the Regulatory Advisory Panel to ensure that the intent of the legislation is fulfilled. Muslims make up a higher percentage of the population in Virginia than the nation as a whole and this should be reflected in its advisory panels.

We believe the following provisions will ensure all Virginians are able to practice in funeral service, regardless of their faith, and ask for them to be included:

- Funeral Directors must not be required to practice under a Funeral Service License;
- Funeral Directors must be able to serve as managers of funeral establishments;
- Educational and examination requirements should be those for a funeral director only, not an embalmer;
- A leader of the Muslim community must be appointed to the Regulatory Advisory Panel to ensure the intent of the legislation is fulfilled; and
- Opposition to restrictions on the funeral director license that amount to restraint of trade.

Muslims of Northern Virginia are tracking the progress the board will be making on this important matter, and we sincerely hope that there is separation of funeral director licenses from embalmer licenses.

Sincerely,


Dr. M. Farooq, President, ICNVT
Islamic Center/Northern Virginia Trust (ICNVT)
4420 Shirley Gate Road
Fairfax, VA 22030



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Executive Director
Virginia Department of Health Professions
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
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Corie E. Tillman Wolf
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, VA 23233-1463

July 13, 2020

Dear Dr. Brown and Ms. Tillman Wolf,

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Muslims of Northern Virginia are tracking the progress the board will be making on this important matter, and we sincerely hope that there is separation of funeral director licenses from embalmer licenses.

Sincerely,

Allison Carpenter
Chair, Interfaith Programs Committee
Secretary, Board of Directors
McLean Islamic Center
8800 Jarrett Valley Drive
Vienna, Virginia 22182
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cc: Senator Jeremy McPike
P.O. Box 2819
Woodbridge, VA 22195

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE

A nonprofit protecting your right to choose a meaningful, dignified, and affordable funeral

33 Patchen Road, South Burlington, VT 05403 ~ 802-865-8300 ~ funerals.org

June 3, 2020

David E. Brown, D.C.
Director, Virginia Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300
Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463

sent by email: david.brown@dhp.virginia.gov

re: new licensing regulations for funeral directors pursuant to SB 1044

Dear Dr. Brown,

I write you as the executive director of Funeral Consumers Alliance. We are a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) educational charity. Our mission is to educate the public about funeral options with an eye to free choice and affordability. We also advocate for sensible regulations that protect grieving consumers.

Sometimes we are also obliged to object to regulations that purport to protect the public, but that are merely anti-competitive. We are concerned that such a regulatory effort may be underway in Virginia. As you know, SB 1044 was signed by the Governor this year. The bill authorizes the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to issue separate licenses for funeral directors, embalmers, and practitioners of “funeral services.”

We understand the purpose of this bill is to allow funeral directors who are *not* also embalmers, and who have *not* earned a full mortuary college degree (which includes a heavy emphasis on embalming training) to offer funeral services for sale in Virginia, and to manage or direct a funeral service establishment.

Funeral Consumers Alliance supports these new categories of licensure. Current Virginia regulations require funeral licensees to be trained embalmers as well. This is unnecessary. It has closed down competition in the sector by filtering out candidates who have not paid for a full mortuary school education, and who do not wish to practice embalming.

Not only does this narrow employment opportunities without providing a corresponding consumer protection, it also sustains the higher prices preferred by some traditional practitioners.

We are aware that the Virginia Funeral Directors Association opposed SB 1044. This is not surprising; most trade agencies seek to preserve a favorable status quo. But we are concerned that trade groups will attempt to thwart the legislative intent behind SB 1044

by pushing for regulations that render it inoperative.

When competition is restricted, when states require that all funeral directors also hold degrees that include embalming, the effects on grieving families include:

- Higher prices—Embalming is not necessary unless the consumer chooses it. Virginia law allows for refrigeration in lieu of embalming when disposition does not occur within 48 hours. Requiring a fully trained embalmer to direct and manage a funeral service establishment provides no benefit to consumers. But it does raise the salary requirements, which raises the retail price.
- Fewer options for simple and affordable dispositions—Graduates from mortuary colleges, with their heavy emphasis on embalming, tend to perpetuate the values of that education in the kinds of businesses they open and operate. America’s mortuary colleges are still, in 2021, teaching misinformation, such as the incorrect notion that embalming “protects public health”, and that it is necessary for appropriate grieving.

No state in the US needs to encourage more embalming-centric funeral businesses. The market, not state laws or regulations, should shape the field of offerings. Traditionally-focused full-service funeral homes have dominated the sector since the beginning of the funeral home industry in the late 19th century. As the cremation rate has passed 50 percent nationally, consumers are increasingly turning to lower-cost, simpler arrangements that do not necessarily include embalming. States should create regulatory structures that allow for such market-driven expansion, instead of regimes that hobble it.

The efficiencies and consumer cost-savings that can be realized by direct, simple disposition businesses are constrained by requirements to employ a mortuary school graduate and practicing embalmer for job duties that do not require these skills and the salaries they command. It is no more necessary for the managing director of a funeral home or direct cremation business to be an embalmer than it is necessary for the owner or manager of a car dealership to be a certified mechanic.

We ask the Department of Health Professions to ensure that industry trade groups do not thwart the goals of SB 1044. Specifically, we believe regulations must:

- Allow a funeral director-only licensee to perform all necessary duties with the exception of embalming. Funeral director-only licensees must be allowed to meet with families, plan arrangements at-need or pre-need, and to discuss prices and service options with families, including discussions of embalming.
- Allow a funeral director-only licensee to act as the managing director of a funeral establishment.

- Allow for an embalmer-only license category. Just as there are funeral directors who are not embalmers, there are embalmers who prefer to practice their technical skills, and who do not wish to be “front of the house” staff.

Virginia has an opportunity to modernize its funeral service license regime to allow the market to open up choices for grieving families while encouraging competition. The increasing number of families who choose simpler services without embalming is not going to reverse itself. Indeed, the current pandemic has accelerated it. But the trend was already there and clear to those who listen to the expressed needs—affordability especially—of American families dealing with a death.

Sincerely,



Joshua L. Slocum
Executive Director

cc: Corie E. Tillman Wolf, J.D., Executive Director, Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chavela Painter** <chavela***@aol.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 6:25 AM

Subject: Public Comment

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Good morning,

Below you will find suggested qualifications for a Funeral Director's License. Thank you allowing comments.

Sincerely,

Chavela' D. Painter

Funeral Service Licensee

O. H. Smith & Son Funeral Home

Newport News, VA

(757) 380-8871

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions–

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021) *Please note that current licensed Funeral Directors who are already serving as Manager of Record would be “grandfathered” so that new restriction would not affect them.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Armeke Smith** <arm***@aol.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 8:00 AM Subject:

Public Comment

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Hello,

Below are suggested qualifications for the Funeral Director's License.

Thank you,

Armeke D. Smith

Funeral Service Licensee

O. H. Smith & Son Funeral Home

Newport News, VA

(757) 380-8871

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after approval of qualifications.

Sent from my iPhone

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Donita Greene** <donita***@verizon.net>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 8:22 AM

Subject: FD License

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Cc: Barry Robinson <MrBarryDe@aol.com>

I believe, at a minimum, these are the requirements needed for the FD license:

1. Minimum age of 18;
2. Had not been convicted of any violent crimes, federal crimes or any crimes of moral turpitude;
3. Is a person of good and moral character;
4. Has attained legally a high school diploma or his/her GED;
5. Has successfully completed, and attained a degree in a Mortuary Science Program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the Virginia State Board;
6. Has satisfactorily completed, in Virginia, 2000 hours of supervised internship, completing a minimum of 25 funerals, and 25 arrangements
7. Successfully passes the Arts Section of the National Board Exam;
8. Successfully passes the VA State Board exam, including the few science related questions therein. (The candidate would have had the science classes, minus embalming, in their Mortuary Science curriculum.);
9. Pay all required fees; and
10. Be required to complete the State requirements for annual CEUs.

RESTRICTIONS:

1. The individual with this license cannot be the manager of record for the funeral home if licensed after January 14, 2021, and
2. This license is only valid for practice in the State of Virginia and cannot be transferred for use in any other State in the USA, including any other state that may also now, or in the future, create a Funeral Director license.

Thank you for your attention.

Sent from my iPhone - Donita Greene

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <cooperandhum****@verizon.net>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 8:42 AM

Subject: Public comment (Funeral Director's License)

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fisher Watkins** <fisherwatkins*****@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 10:14 AM

Subject: Qualifications for Funeral Director License

To: <corie.wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>, <sandrahairston***@yahoo.com>

Qualifications for Funeral Directors License

1. At least 18 years of age
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes/found guilty of a federal crime or moral turpitude
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the State Board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship/participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the State examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

RESTRICTIONS

Not eligible to be a Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **sandrahairston***** <sandrahairston***@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 10:18 AM

Subject:

To: <corie.wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy , an AT&T LTE smartphone

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wendal Givens** <givens***@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 9:56 AM

Subject: Comments for board

To: Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: ivorymaya**@yahoo.com <ivorymaya**@yahoo.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Subject: Fw: Public Comment for SB 1044 RAP of August 14, 2020

To: Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rhonda Pleasants** <rkpleasant**@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 11:05 AM

Subject: Recommended Qualifications For Funeral Director Only License

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Dear Ms. Wolf,

I support the split license with the following recommended qualifications:

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the Virginia State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam ARTS Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions –

Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Rhonda Keyes Pleasants, CFSP, CCO

Manager, Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home, Inc.

Past President, Virginia Morticians Association, Inc.

Retired Department Chair, John Tyler Community College Funeral Services Program

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <msme***@msn.com> Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 12:17 PM

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT-SB 1044

To: Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

As a Funeral Service Licensee for the Commonwealth of Virginia, I support the following qualifications for licensure of a Funeral Director under the regulations of SB 1044:

Qualifications for Funeral Director License

1. At least eighteen years of age;
2. One of good moral and character
3. Has not been convicted of any violent crimes or found guilty of a federal or crime of moral turpitude;
4. Has high school education or GED
5. Has successfully completed a degree program at an approved Mortuary School accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the state board
6. Has satisfactorily completed 2000 hours of supervised internship participating in 25 arrangements and 25 funerals
7. Passed the National Board Exam Art Section
8. Passed the state examination to include some Sciences in Funeral Service
9. Pay the required fees

Restrictions

- Not eligible to be Manager of Record (for those licensed after January 14, 2021)

Mary E. Johnson Fields

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Suja S. Amir** <suja*****@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 at 4:54 PM

Subject: SB1044

To: <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

I support the creation of a separate Funeral Director's license and am in favor of the adoption SB-1044.
Thank your or your time.

Suja S. Amir, MPA

" You learn a lot about someone when you share a meal together." Anthony Bourdain

✉ suja*****@gmail.com

**Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
Regulatory Advisory Panel – Licensure of Funeral Directors and Embalmers (SB 1044)**

First Meeting – Possible Recommendations for Further Discussion

License Type	Area	Possible Recommendations	Notes
Funeral Director	Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Associates degree from a program of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the ABFSE, OR Board-approved program 2. Coursework in areas such as safe handling of remains, anatomy, physiology, pathology 3. Successful completion of coursework (grade of C or better) in lieu of examination related to sciences 	
	Examination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passage of National Board Exam - Arts (ABFSE accredited grad) or State Board Exam – Arts (non-ABFSE accredited grad) 2. Passage of state laws, rules, and regulations (LRR) examination 	In lieu of science-based exam at state-level, successful completion of coursework; Board review of state LRR to ensure global application of questions
	Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2,000 hours of internship completed in no less than 12 months 2. Assist with 25 funerals and 25 arrangement conferences 	
Embalmer	Education	Associates degree from a program of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the ABFSE, <i>OR Board-approved program</i>	Additional information to be provided regarding possible Embalming-only curriculum
	Examination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passage of National Board Exam – Sciences (ABFSE accredited grad) or State Board Exam – Sciences (non-ABFSE accredited grad) 2. Passage of state laws, rules, and regulations (LRR) examination 	Board review of state LRR to ensure global application of questions
	Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2,000 hours of internship completed in no less than 12 months 2. Assist with 25 embalmings 	

Draft Regulation
Language for Discussion –
Chapters 20, 30, 40

**REGULATIONS OF THE
VIRGINIA BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS**

Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 65-20-10 et seq.

Part I. General Provisions.

18VAC65-20-10. Definitions.

Words and terms used in this chapter shall have the definitions ascribed in §54.1-2800 of the Code of Virginia or in 16 CFR Part 453, Funeral Industry Practices, of the Federal Trade Commission, which is incorporated by reference in this chapter. In addition, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Branch" or "chapel" means a funeral service establishment that is affiliated with a licensed main establishment and that conforms with the requirements of §54.1-2811 of the Code of Virginia.

"Courtesy card" means the card issued by the board which grants limited and restricted funeral service privileges in the Commonwealth to out-of-state funeral service licensees, funeral directors, and embalmers.

"Cremation container" means a container in which human remains are transported to the crematory and placed in the retort for cremation.

"Cremation urn" means a wood, metal, stone, plastic, or composition container or a container of other material, which is designed for encasing cremated ashes.

"Cremation vault" or "cremation outer burial container" means any container that is designed for encasement of an inner container or urn containing cremated ashes. Also known as a cremation box.

"FTC" means the Federal Trade Commission.

"Manager of record" means a funeral service licensee or licensed funeral director who is responsible for the direct supervision and management of a funeral service establishment or branch facility.

18VAC65-20-15. Criteria for delegation of informal fact-finding proceedings to an agency subordinate.

A. Decision to delegate.

In accordance with § 54.1-2400 (10) of the Code of Virginia, the board may delegate an informal fact-finding proceeding to an agency subordinate upon determination that probable cause exists that a practitioner may be subject to a disciplinary action.

B. Criteria for delegation. Cases that may not be delegated to an agency subordinate, except with the concurrence of a committee of the board, are those that involve:

1. Intentional or negligent conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury;
2. Conducting the practice of funeral services in such a manner as to constitute a danger to the health, safety, and well-being of the staff or the public;
3. Impairment with an inability to practice with skill and safety;
4. Inappropriate handling of dead human bodies;
5. Sexual misconduct;
6. Misappropriation of funds;
7. Aiding or abetting unauthorized practice; or
8. Felony conviction by an applicant.

C. Criteria for an agency subordinate.

1. An agency subordinate authorized by the board to conduct an informal fact-finding proceeding may include board members deemed knowledgeable by virtue of their training and experience in administrative proceedings involving the regulation and discipline of health professionals.
2. The executive director shall maintain a list of appropriately qualified persons to whom an informal fact-finding proceeding may be delegated.
3. The board may delegate to the executive director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being heard.

18VAC65-20-20 to 18VAC65-20-40. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-50. Posting of license.

A. Each licensee shall post an original or photocopy of his license in a place conspicuous to consumers of funeral services in each establishment or branch where he is employed.

B. The establishment license shall be posted in a place conspicuous to consumers of funeral services.

18VAC65-20-60. Accuracy of information.

A. All changes in the address of record or the public address, if different from the address of record, or in the name of a licensee or registrant shall be furnished to the board within 30 days after the change occurs.

B. Any change in ownership or manager of record for an establishment or crematory shall be reported to the board within 14 days of the change.

C. A surface transportation and removal service shall notify the board within 30 days of any change in the name of the manager on record with the board.

D. All notices required by law and by this chapter to be mailed by the board to any registrant or licensee shall be validly given when mailed to the latest address of record on file with the board and shall not relieve the licensee, funeral service intern, establishment, crematory, or firm of obligation to comply.

18VAC65-20-70. Required fees.

A. The following fees shall apply for initial licensure or registration:

1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer \$325
2. Funeral service establishment license \$600
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration \$325
4. Courtesy card \$325
5. Crematory \$250
6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement \$150

B. The following fees shall apply for renewal of licensure or registration:

1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer \$225
2. Funeral service establishment license \$400
3. Surface transportation and removal service registration \$300
4. Courtesy card \$300
5. Crematory \$200
6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement \$100

C. The following fees shall apply for late renewal of licensure or registration up to one year following expiration:

1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer \$75
2. Funeral service establishment license \$135

- 3. Surface transportation and removal service registration \$100
- 4. Courtesy card \$100
- 5. Crematory \$75
- 6. Waiver of full-time manager requirement \$35

D. The following fees shall apply for reinstatement of licensure or registration:

- 1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer \$400
- 2. Establishment license \$635
- 3. Surface transportation and removal service registration \$425
- 4. Courtesy card \$425
- 5. Crematory \$275
- 6. Reinstatement following suspension \$1,000
- 7. Reinstatement following revocation \$2,000

E. Other fees.

- 1. Change of manager or establishment name \$100
- 2. Verification of license or registration to another state \$50
- 3. Duplicate license, registration, or courtesy card \$25
- 4. Duplicate wall certificates \$60
- 5. Change of ownership \$100
- 6. Nonroutine reinspection (i.e., structural change to preparation room, change of location or ownership) \$400

F. Fees for approval of continuing education providers.

- 1. Application or renewal for continuing education provider \$400
- 2. Late renewal of continuing education provider approval \$100
- 3. Review of additional courses not included on initial or renewal application \$300

G. For each renewal in the two years after January 14, 2015, the following shortfall reduction fee shall be assessed:

- 1. License to practice funeral service or as a funeral director or an embalmer \$40

- 2. Funeral service establishment license \$75
- 3. Surface transportation and removal service registration \$60
- 4. Courtesy card \$60
- 5. Crematory \$40
- 6. Continuing education provider \$75

18VAC65-20-80 to 18VAC65-20-100. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-110. Additional fee information.

- A. There shall be a fee of \$35 for returned checks.
- B. Fees shall not be refunded once submitted.
- C. The fee for the Virginia State Board Examination shall be paid directly to the examination service contracted by the board for its administration.

Part II. Renewals and Reinstatement.

18VAC65-20-120. Expiration dates.

- A. A funeral service establishment license, crematory registration, or surface transportation and removal service registration shall expire on March 31 of each calendar year.
- B. The funeral service license, funeral director license, or embalmer license shall expire on March 31 of each calendar year.
- C. Courtesy cards expire on March 31 of each calendar year.

18VAC65-20-130. Renewal of license; registration.

A. A person, establishment, crematory, courtesy card holder or surface transportation and removal service that desires to renew its license or registration for the next year shall, not later than the expiration date as provided in 18VAC65-20-120, submit the renewal form and applicable fee.

1. In order to renew an active funeral service, funeral director, or embalmer license, a licensee shall be required to comply with continuing competency requirements set forth in 18VAC65-20-151.

2. The board shall not renew a license for any licensee who fails to attest to compliance with continuing competency requirements on the renewal form.

B. A person who or entity which desires to renew an expired license for up to one year following expiration shall comply with requirements of subsection A of this section and also submit the applicable fee for late renewal.

C. A person who or entity which fails to renew a license, registration, or courtesy card by the expiration dates prescribed in 18VAC65-20-120 shall be deemed to have an invalid license, registration, or courtesy card and continued practice may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

18VAC65-20-140. Reinstatement of expired license or registration.

A. The board may consider reinstatement of an expired license or registration that has not been renewed within one year of expiration for up to three years following expiration. An application request for reinstatement shall be submitted to the board and shall include payment of the reinstatement fee prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70.

B. If the Virginia license of a funeral service provider, funeral director, ~~and-or~~ embalmer is lapsed three years or less and the applicant is seeking reinstatement, ~~the applicant he~~ shall provide evidence of having completing the number of continuing competency hours required for the period in which the license has been lapsed.

C. When a license is not reinstated within three years of its expiration date, an applicant shall reapply for licensure and pass the state examination.

18VAC65-20-150. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-151. Continued competency requirements for renewal of an active license.

A. Funeral service licensees, funeral directors, ~~or funeral~~ embalmers shall be required to have completed a minimum of five hours per year of continuing education offered by a board-approved sponsor for licensure renewal in courses that emphasize the ethics, standards of practice, preneed contracts and funding, or federal or state laws and regulations governing the profession of funeral service.

1. One hour per year shall cover compliance with laws and regulations governing the profession, and at least one hour per year shall cover preneed funeral arrangements. The one-hour requirement on compliance with laws and regulations may be met once every two years by attendance at a meeting of the board or at a committee of the board or an informal conference or formal hearing.

2. One hour of the five hours required for annual renewal may be satisfied through delivery of professional services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a free clinic organized in whole or primarily for the delivery of those services. One hour of continuing education may be credited for one hour of providing such volunteer services, as documented by the health department or free clinic. For the purposes of continuing education credit for volunteer service, an approved sponsor shall be a local health department or free clinic.

B. Courses must be directly related to the scope of practice of funeral service. Courses for which the principal purpose is to promote, sell or offer goods, products or services to funeral homes are not acceptable for the purpose of credit toward renewal.

C. The board may grant an extension for good cause of up to one year for the completion of continuing education requirements upon written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date. Such extension shall not relieve the licensee of the continuing education requirement.

D. The board may grant an exemption for all or part of the continuing education requirements for one renewal cycle due to circumstances determined by the board to be beyond the control of the licensee.

18VAC65-20-152. Continuing education providers.

A. Unless disqualified by action of the board, courses offered by the following providers are approved for continuing education credit:

1. Local, state or federal government agencies;
2. Regionally accredited colleges and universities; or
3. Board-recognized national, regional, state and local associations or organizations as follows:
 - a. National Funeral Directors Association and state chapters;
 - b. National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association and state chapters;
 - c. Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia;
 - d. Cremation Association of North America;
 - e. American Board of Funeral Service Education;
 - f. International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards;
 - g. Virginia Morticians Association; and
 - h. Other similar associations or organizations as approved by action of the board.

B. Course providers not listed in subsection A of this section may apply for approval by the board as continuing education providers.

1. To be considered for board approval, a continuing education provider shall submit 60 days prior to offering a continuing education course:
 - a. Documentation of an instructional plan and course objectives for continuing education courses that meet the criteria set forth in 18VAC65-20-151 B;
 - b. A syllabus of the course or courses to be offered with the credentials of the course instructors, a description of each session, including number of continuing education hours; and

c. The continuing education provider fee set forth under 18VAC65-20-70.

2. Board approval of continuing education providers under this subsection shall expire on July 1 of each year and may be renewed upon resubmission of documentation on courses and instructors and the provider fee as required by the board.

3. Continued approval of a continuing education provider may be granted without submission of the provider fee if the provider submits a statement that courses and instructors offered for the coming year will not change from the previous year. If there will be additions or alterations to the continuing education offerings of a provider, resubmission of documentation and a provider fee is required.

C. Continuing education providers approved under subsection A or B of this section shall:

1. Maintain and provide to the board upon request documentation of the course titles and objectives and of licensee attendance and completion of courses for a period of two years;

2. Monitor attendance at classroom or similar educational experiences for compliance with law and regulations; and

3. Provide a certificate of completion for licensees who successfully complete a course.

18VAC65-20-153. Documenting compliance with continuing education requirements.

A. All licensees with active status are required to maintain original documentation for a period of two years after renewal.

B. After the end of each renewal period, the board may conduct a random audit of licensees to verify compliance with the requirement for that renewal period.

C. Upon request, a licensee shall provide documentation within 14 days as follows:

1. Official transcripts showing credit hours earned from an accredited institution; or

2. Certificates of completion from approved providers.

D. Compliance with continuing education requirements, including the subject and purpose of the courses as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-151 B, the maintenance of records and the relevance of the courses to the category of licensure is the responsibility of the licensee. The board may request additional information if such compliance is not clear from the transcripts or certificates.

E. Continuing education hours required by disciplinary order shall not be used to satisfy renewal requirements.

18VAC65-20-154. Inactive license.

A. A funeral service licensee, funeral director, or embalmer who holds a current, unrestricted license in Virginia shall, upon a request for inactive status on the renewal application and

submission of the required renewal fee of \$115, be issued an inactive license. The fee for late renewal up to one year following expiration of an inactive license shall be \$40.

1. An inactive licensee shall not be entitled to perform any act requiring a license to practice funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming in Virginia.

2. The holder of an inactive license shall not be required to meet continuing education requirements, except as may be required for reactivation in subsection B of this section.

B. A funeral service licensee, funeral director, or embalmer who holds an inactive license may reactivate his license by:

1. Paying the difference between the renewal fee for an inactive license and that of an active license for the year in which the license is being reactivated; and

2. Providing proof of completion of the number of continuing competency hours required for the period in which the license has been inactive, not to exceed three years.

Part III. Requirements for Licensure.

18VAC65-20-160. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-170. Requirements for an establishment license.

A. No person shall maintain, manage, or operate a funeral service establishment in the Commonwealth, unless such establishment holds a license issued by the board. The name of the funeral service licensee or licensed funeral director designated by the ownership to be manager of the establishment shall be included on the license.

B. Except as provided in §54.1-2810 of the Code of Virginia, every funeral service establishment and every branch or chapel of such establishment, regardless of how owned, shall have a separate manager of record who has responsibility for the establishment as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-171. The owner of the establishment shall not abridge the authority of the manager of record relating to compliance with the laws governing the practice of funeral services and regulations of the board.

C. At least 30 days prior to opening an establishment, an owner or licensed manager seeking an establishment license shall submit simultaneously a completed application, any additional documentation as may be required by the board to determine eligibility, and the applicable fee. An incomplete package will be returned to the licensee. A license shall not be issued until an inspection of the establishment has been completed and approved.

D. Within 30 days following a change of ownership, the owner or licensed manager request a reinspection of the establishment, submit an application for a new establishment license with documentation that identifies the new owner, and pay the licensure and reinspection fees as required by 18VAC65-20-70. Reinspection of the establishment may occur on a schedule determined by the board, but shall occur no later than one year from the date of the change.

E. The application for licensure of a branch or chapel shall specify the name of the main establishment.

18VAC65-20-171. Responsibilities of the manager of record.

A. Every funeral establishment shall have a manager of record who is employed full time by and in charge of the establishment.

B. The manager shall be fully accountable for the operation of the establishment as it pertains to the laws and regulations governing the practice of funeral services, to include but not be limited to:

1. Maintenance of the facility within standards established in this chapter;
2. Retention of reports and documents as prescribed by the board in 18VAC65-20-700 during the period in which he serves as manager of record; and
3. Reporting to the board of any changes in information as required by 18VAC65-20-60.

18VAC65-20-180 to 18VAC65-20-230. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-231. Requirements for a funeral director license by examination.

A. To qualify for licensure as a funeral director, a person shall:

1. Be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent;
2. Have completed a funeral service internship prescribed by the board in regulation;
3. Have graduated from a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated, or [have completed at least 60 credit hours of coursework, including successful completion of coursework in the areas of (a) pathology and (b) anatomy, from a funeral directing program approved by the board / have completed a funeral directing program approved by the board];
4. Have passed the National Board Examination in Arts or State Board Examination in Arts of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and
5. Have passed the Virginia State Board Examination on the laws, rules, and regulations for funeral practice.

B. Application requirements. Applicants shall submit school transcripts and National Board Examination or State Board Examination scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

C. The board, in its discretion, may license an individual convicted of a felony if he has successfully fulfilled all conditions of sentencing, been pardoned, or has had his civil rights restored or may refuse to license an individual who has a criminal or disciplinary proceeding pending against him in any jurisdiction in the United States.

18VAC65-20-232. Requirements for an embalmer license by examination.

A. To qualify for licensure as an embalmer, a person shall:

- 1. Be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma or its equivalent;**
- 2. Have completed a funeral service internship prescribed by the board in regulation;**
- 3. Have graduated from a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated;**
- 4. Have passed the National Board Examination in Sciences or State Board Examination in Sciences of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and**
- 5. Have passed the Virginia State Board Examination on the laws, rules, and regulations for funeral practice.**

B. Application requirements. Applicants shall submit school transcripts and National Board Examination or State Board Examination scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

C. The board, in its discretion, may license an individual convicted of a felony if he has successfully fulfilled all conditions of sentencing, been pardoned, or has had his civil rights restored or may refuse to license an individual who has a criminal or disciplinary proceeding pending against him in any jurisdiction in the United States.

18VAC65-20-235. Approval of educational programs.

All applicants for ~~funeral service~~ licensure **as a funeral service licensee** are required to have graduated from a funeral service program offered by a school of mortuary science or funeral service accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, Incorporated.

18VAC65-20-236. Requirements for Students Assisting with Embalming.

In accordance with § 54.1-2805 of the Code of Virginia, a student who is duly enrolled in a mortuary education program in the Commonwealth and who is not registered with the board as a funeral intern may assist in embalming in a funeral service establishment provided the following requirements are met:

1. The funeral establishment holds a current, unrestricted license issued by the board;
2. The funeral establishment and funeral service licensee or embalmer providing student supervision meet the accreditation standards of the American Board of Funeral Service Education and the Commission on Accreditation for off-campus embalming instruction;
3. Students shall receive instruction and shall observe embalming of a dead human body prior to assisting with an embalming in a funeral service establishment and shall assist with embalming in conjunction with an embalming laboratory course;

4. A funeral service licensee or embalmer may supervise up to three students under his immediate supervision, which shall mean the supervisor is physically and continuously present in the preparation room with the students to supervise each task to be performed;

5. A funeral service establishment shall include on the form granting permission to embalm information disclosing that the establishment is a training facility for mortuary education students and that a student may be assisting the licensee with embalming; and

6. The embalming report shall include the names of students assisting with an embalming and shall be signed by the supervisor.

18VAC65-20-240. Requirements for funeral service licensure by examination.

A. Application requirements.

1. Applicants shall submit school transcripts and national examination board scores as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

2. An individual applying for the state examination shall submit the application package not less than 30 days prior to an examination date. The board may, for good cause shown by the applicant, waive the time for the filing of any application.

B. National examination requirements. Prior to applying for licensure by examination, every applicant shall pass the National Board Examination of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards.

C. State examination requirements. All applicants shall pass the Virginia State Board Examination.

18VAC65-20-250 to 18VAC65-20-340. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-350. Requirements for licensure by reciprocity or endorsement.

A. Licenses for the practice of funeral service, **funeral directing, embalming** or its equivalent issued by other states, territories, or the District of Columbia may be recognized by the board and the holder of such license or licenses may be granted a license to practice funeral service within the Commonwealth. Licenses may be granted to applicants by the board on a case-by-case basis if the applicant holds a valid license for the practice of funeral service or its equivalent in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia and possesses credentials which are substantially similar to or more stringent than required by the Commonwealth for initial licensure at the time the applicant was initially licensed.

B. An applicant for licensure by reciprocity or endorsement shall pass the Virginia State Board Examination.

18VAC65-20-360 to 18VAC65-20-390. [Repealed]

Part IV. Registration.

18VAC65-20-400. Registration of surface transportation and removal services.

All persons applying to own or operate a surface transportation and removal service, according to requirements of §54.1-2819 of the Code of Virginia, shall submit an application package for registration which shall include:

1. A completed and signed application;
2. The fee prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70 A 3; and
3. Additional documentation as may be required by the board to determine eligibility of the applicant, including, but not limited to, evidence of training in compliance with standards of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for universal precautions and blood-borne pathogens; and
4. The name of the manager for the service.

18VAC65-20-410. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-420. Misrepresentation.

A person employed or operating a surface transportation and removal service shall not in any manner misrepresent himself to the public as being an official of any local jurisdiction, the Commonwealth, federal, or any other governmental body unless granted such authority. This shall include the name and title of the company or service, uniforms, equipment, vehicles, and any other instruments used or proffered by the services or its agents.

18VAC65-20-430. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-435. Registration of crematories.

A. At least 30 days prior to opening a crematory, any person intending to own or operate a crematory shall apply for registration with the board by submitting a completed application and fee as prescribed in 18VAC65-20-70. The name of the individual designated by the ownership to be the crematory manager shall be included on the application. The owner of the crematory shall not abridge the authority of the crematory manager relating to compliance with the laws governing the practice of funeral services and regulations of the board.

B. Every crematory, regardless of how owned, shall have a manager who has (i) achieved certification by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA); the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCF); or other certification recognized by the board and (ii) received training in compliance with standards of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) for universal precautions and blood-borne pathogens.

C. The manager shall be fully accountable for the operation of the crematory as it pertains to the laws and regulations governing the practice of funeral services, to include but not be limited to:

1. Maintenance of the facility within standards established in this chapter;

2. Retention of reports and documents as prescribed by the board in 18VAC65-20-436 during the period in which he serves as crematory manager; and

3. Reporting to the board of any changes in information as required by 18VAC65-20-60.

D. All persons who operate the retort in a crematory shall have certification by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA); the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCF); or other certification recognized by the board. Persons receiving training toward certification to operate a retort shall be allowed to work under the supervision of an operator who holds certification for a period not to exceed six months.

E. A crematory providing cremation services directly to the public shall also be licensed as a funeral service establishment or shall be a branch of a licensed establishment.

F. The board may take disciplinary action against a crematory registration for a violation of § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia or for the inappropriate handling of dead human bodies or cremains.

18VAC65-20-436. Standards for registered crematories or funeral establishments relating to cremation.

A. Authorization to cremate.

1. A crematory shall require a cremation authorization form executed in person or electronically in a manner that provides a copy of an original signature in accordance with § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia.

2. The cremation authorization form shall include an attestation of visual identification of the deceased from a viewing of the remains or a photograph signed by the person making the identification. Visual identification may be made by viewing unique identifiers or markings on the remains. The identification attestation shall either be given on the cremation authorization form or on an identification form attached to the cremation authorization form.

3. In the event visual identification is not feasible, a crematory may use other positive identification of the deceased in consultation with law enforcement, a medical examiner, or medical personnel as a prerequisite for cremation pursuant to § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. Standards for cremation. The following standards shall be required for every crematory:

1. Every crematory shall provide evidence at the time of an inspection of a permit to operate issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

2. A crematory shall not knowingly cremate a body with a pacemaker, defibrillator or other potentially hazardous implant in place.

3. A crematory shall not cremate the human remains of more than one person simultaneously in the same chamber of the retort or cremation unit, unless the crematory has received specific written authorization to do so from the person signing the cremation authorization form.

4. A crematory shall not cremate nonhuman remains in a retort permitted by DEQ for cremation of human remains.

5. Whenever a crematory is unable to cremate the remains within 24 hours upon taking custody thereof, the crematory shall maintain the remains in refrigeration at approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit or less, unless the remains have been embalmed.

C. Handling of human remains.

1. Human remains shall be transported to a crematory in a cremation container and shall not be removed from the container unless the crematory has been provided with written instructions to the contrary by the person who signed the authorization form. A cremation container shall substantially meet all the following standards:

- a. Be composed of readily combustible materials suitable for cremation;
- b. Be able to be closed in order to provide complete covering for the human remains;
- c. Be resistant to leakage or spillage; and
- d. Be rigid enough for handling with ease.

2. No crematory shall require that human remains be placed in a casket before cremation nor shall it require that the cremains be placed in a cremation urn, cremation vault or receptacle designed to permanently encase the cremains after cremation. Cremated remains shall be placed in a plastic bag inside a rigid container provided by the crematory or by the next-of-kin for return to the funeral establishment or to the next-of-kin. If cremated remains are placed in a biodegradable container, a biodegradable bag shall be used. If placed in a container designed for scattering, the cremated remains may be placed directly into the container if the next-of-kin so authorized in writing.

3. The identification of the decedent shall be physically attached to the remains and appropriate identification placed on the exterior of the cremation container. The crematory operator shall verify the identification on the remains with the identification attached to the cremation container and with the identification attached to the cremation authorization. The crematory operator shall also verify the identification of the cremains and place evidence of such verification in the cremation record.

D. Recordkeeping. A crematory shall maintain the records of cremation for a period of three years from the date of the cremation that indicate the name of the decedent, the date and time of the receipt of the body, and the date and time of the cremation and shall include:

1. The cremation authorization form signed by the person authorized by law to dispose of the remains and the form on which the next-of-kin or the person authorized by § 54.1-2818.1 to make the identification has made a visual identification of the deceased or evidence of positive identification, if visual identification is not feasible;

2. The permission form from the medical examiner;

3. The DEQ permit number of the retort used for the cremation and the name of the retort operator;
and

4. The form verifying the release of the cremains, including date and time of release, the name of the person and the entity to whom the cremains were released and the name of the decedent.

Part V. Issuance of Courtesy Cards.

18VAC65-20-440. Courtesy cards.

A. An out-of-state person applying for a courtesy card pursuant to §54.1-2801 B of the Code of Virginia shall hold a valid license for funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia.

B. An applicant for a courtesy card shall submit:

1. A completed application and prescribed fee; and
2. Verification of a current funeral service license in good standing from the applicant's licensing authority.

C. The holder of a Virginia courtesy card shall only engage in the practice for which he is currently licensed in another jurisdiction.

18VAC65-20-450 to 18VAC65-20-490. [Repealed]

Part VI. Refusal, Suspension, Revocation, and Disciplinary Action.

18VAC65-20-500. Disciplinary action.

In accordance with the provisions of §54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, the following practices are considered unprofessional conduct and may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board:

1. Breach of confidence. The unnecessary or unwarranted disclosure of confidences by the funeral licensee.
2. Unfair competition.
 - a. Interference by a funeral service licensee, funeral director, or registered surface transportation and removal service when another has been called to take charge of a dead human body and the caller or agent of the caller has the legal right to the body's disposition.
 - b. Consent by a funeral service licensee or funeral director to take charge of a body unless authorized by the person or his agent having the legal right to disposition.
3. False advertising.

a. No licensee or registrant shall make, publish, disseminate, circulate or place before the public, or cause directly or indirectly to be made, an advertisement of any sort regarding services or anything so offered to the public which contains any promise, assertion, representation, or statement of fact which is untrue, deceptive, or misleading.

b. The following practices, both written and verbal, shall constitute false, deceptive, or misleading advertisement within the meaning of subdivision 4 of §54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia:

(1) Advertising containing inaccurate statements; and

(2) Advertisement which gives a false impression as to ability, care, and cost of conducting a funeral, or that creates an impression of things not likely to be true.

c. The following practices are among those which shall constitute an untrue, deceptive, and misleading representation or statement of fact:

(1) Representing that funeral goods or services will delay the natural decomposition of human remains for a long term or indefinite time; and

(2) Representing that funeral goods have protective features or will protect the body from gravesite substances over or beyond that offered by the written warranty of the manufacturer.

4. Inappropriate handling and storage of dead human bodies, consistent with § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia and regulations of the board. Transportation and removal vehicles shall be of such nature as to eliminate exposure of the deceased to the public during transportation. During the transporting of a human body, consideration shall be taken to avoid unnecessary delays or stops during travel.

5. Failure to furnish price information disclosing the cost to the purchaser for each of the specific funeral goods and funeral services used in connection with the disposition of deceased human bodies.

6. Conducting the practice of funeral services, funeral directing, or embalming in such a manner as to constitute a danger to the health, safety, and well-being of the staff or the public.

7. Inability to practice with skill or safety because of physical, mental, or emotional illness, or substance abuse.

8. Failure to register as a supervisor for a funeral service intern or failure to provide reports to the board as required by the Code of Virginia and 18VAC65-40-320.

9. Failure to comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including requirements for continuing education.

10. Conducting activities or performing services that are outside the scope of a licensee's practice or for which the licensee is not trained and individually competent.

Part VII. Standards for Embalming and Refrigeration.

18VAC65-20-510. Embalming report.

A. In accordance with the provisions of subdivision 26 of § 54.1-2806 and subsection B of § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia, express permission by a next of kin for embalming means written authorization to embalm as a specific and separate statement on a document or contract provided by the funeral establishment. Express permission may include direct, verbal authorization to embalm, provided it is followed as soon as possible by a written document or statement signed by the next of kin confirming the verbal authorization to embalm and including the time, date, and name of the person who gave verbal authorization.

B. Every funeral establishment shall record and maintain a separate, identifiable report for each embalming procedure conducted, which shall at a minimum include the following information:

1. The name of the deceased and the date of death;
2. The date and location of the embalming;
3. The name and signature of the embalmer and the Virginia license number of the embalmer; and
4. If the embalming was performed by a funeral service intern, the name and signature of the supervisor.

18VAC65-20-520. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-530. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-540. Preparation room requirements.

A. Every funeral service establishment at which embalming of dead human bodies is performed shall have at least one room used exclusively for embalming or preparation of the body.

B. The following are required of the preparation room or rooms:

1. The walls shall extend floor to ceiling;
2. The floor and wall surfaces shall be of a material or covered by a material impervious to water; and
3. The material shall extend from wall to wall with all joints tight and sanitary.

C. All functions connected with embalming shall be performed within the preparation room.

18VAC65-20-550 to 18VAC65-20-560. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-570. Condition of preparation room.

A. The preparation room or rooms shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, subject to inspection.

B. Inventories of embalming and preparation materials shall be stored in a container and in a manner that makes them impervious to water and protects them from contamination.

C. Any items or supplies not directly used in an embalming procedure shall not be stored in the preparation room.

18VAC65-20-580. Preparation room equipment.

The preparation room or rooms shall be equipped with:

1. A ventilation system which operates and is appropriate to the size and function of the room;
2. Running hot and cold water;
3. Flush or slop sink connected with public sewer or with septic tank where no public sewer is available;
4. Metal, fiberglass or porcelain morgue table;
5. Covered waste container;
6. Instruments and apparatus for the embalming process;
7. A means or method for the sterilization of reusable instruments by chemical bath or soak; autoclave (steam); or ultraviolet light;
8. Disinfectants and antiseptic solutions;
9. Clean gowns or aprons, preferably impervious to water;
10. Rubber gloves for each embalmer or intern using the room;
11. An electric aspirator or hydroaspirator equipped with a vacuum breaker;
12. An eye wash station that is readily accessible; and
13. A standard first aid kit, which is immediately accessible, either in the preparation room or outside the door to the preparation room.

18VAC65-20-581. Refrigeration requirements.

A. If a dead human body is to be in the possession of a funeral establishment or crematory for more than 48 hours from the time the funeral establishment or crematory takes physical possession of the body until embalming, cremation, or burial, the body shall be placed and maintained in refrigeration

in a mechanical refrigeration unit suitable for storing human remains in accordance with subsection B of § 54.1-2811.1 of the Code of Virginia.

B. The mechanical refrigeration unit may be located in the funeral establishment or crematory, or the funeral establishment or crematory may enter into an agreement or contract with another funeral establishment, crematory, or other licensed entity for refrigeration in a mechanical refrigeration unit.

C. Evidence of compliance with the requirement for refrigeration shall be maintained as a log entry or other documentation indicating times of placement in and removal of a body from refrigeration.

18VAC65-20-590. Disposal of waste materials.

Disposal of all waste materials shall be in conformity with local, state, and federal law and regulations to avoid contagion and the possible spread of disease. Upon inspection, the establishment shall provide evidence of compliance, such as a copy of a contract with a medical waste disposal company.

18VAC65-20-600 to 18VAC65-20-610. [Repealed]

Part VIII. Pricing Standards and Forms.

18VAC65-20-620. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-630. Disclosures.

Funeral ~~providers~~ licensees shall make all required disclosures and provide accurate information from price lists pursuant to the rules of the Federal Trade Commission. Price lists shall comply with requirements of the FTC and shall contain the information included in:

APPENDIX I - General Price List;

APPENDIX II - Casket Price List, Outer Burial Container Price List; and

APPENDIX III - Itemized Statement of Funeral Goods and Services Selected.

18VAC65-20-640 to 18VAC65-20-690. [Repealed]

18VAC65-20-700. Retention of documents.

A. The following retention schedule shall apply to retention of embalming reports, price lists, and itemized statements:

1. Price lists shall be retained for three years after the date on which they are no longer effective;
2. Itemized statements shall be retained for three years from the date on which the arrangements were made; and
3. Embalming reports shall be retained at the location of the embalming for three years after the date of the embalming.

B. The manager of record shall be responsible for retention and maintenance of all required documents.

C. Documents shall be maintained on the premises of the funeral establishment and made available for inspection.

D. In instances where the funeral establishment is sold, documents shall be transferred to the new owner, unless the existing firm is relocating to a new facility.

DRAFT

**REGULATIONS FOR
PRENEED FUNERAL PLANNING**

VIRGINIA BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS

(18VAC65-30-10 et. seq.)

Part I. General Provisions.

18VAC65-30-10. Definitions.

In addition to those defined in §54.1-2800 of the Code of Virginia, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Appointee" means the individual selected by the contract beneficiary to arrange a preneed funeral plan on behalf of the contract beneficiary.

"Capper," "steerer," or "shill" means a person who serves to entice another to purchase a product or to direct the course of action and choice of the buyer in a preneed funeral contract sale.

"Cash advance item" means any item of service or merchandise described to a purchaser as a "cash advance," "accommodation," "cash disbursement," or similar term. A cash advance item is also any item obtained from a third party and paid for by the funeral provider on the behalf of the contract buyer. Cash advance items may include, but are not limited to, cemetery or crematory services, pallbearers, public transportation, clergy honoraria, flowers, musicians or singers, nurses, obituary notices, gratuities, and death certificates.

"Consideration," "contract price," or "funds" means money, property, or any other thing of value provided to be compensation to a contract seller or contract provider for the funeral services and funeral goods to be performed or furnished under a preneed funeral contract. Consideration does not include late payment penalties and payments required to be made to a governmental agency at the time the contract is entered into.

"Contract" means a written, preneed funeral contract, and all documents pertinent to the terms of the contract under which, for consideration paid to a contract seller or a contract provider by or on behalf of a contract buyer prior to the death of the contract beneficiary, a person promises to furnish, make available, or provide funeral services or funeral goods after the death of a contract beneficiary.

"Contract beneficiary" means the individual for whom the funeral services and supplies are being arranged.

"Contract buyer" means the purchaser of the preneed contract.

"Contract provider" means the funeral establishment designated by the contract buyer and contracting with the contract buyer to provide for funeral services and supplies in the preneed funeral contract.

"Contract seller" means the funeral service licensee **or funeral director** who makes the preneed arrangements with the contract buyer for the funeral service and who makes the financial arrangements for the service and the goods and supplies to be provided.

"Designee" means the individual designated to make arrangements for burial or final disposition of the remains pursuant to §54.1-2825 of the Code of Virginia.

"Funding source" means the trust agreement, insurance policy, annuity, personal property, or real estate used to fund the preneed plan.

"Funeral supplies and services" means the items of merchandise sold or offered for sale or lease to consumers that will be used in connection with a funeral or an alternative to a funeral or final disposition of human remains including caskets, combination units, and catafalques. Funeral goods does not mean land or interests in land, crypts, lawn crypts, mausoleum crypts, or niches that are sold by a cemetery that complies with Chapter 23.1 (§54.1-2310 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia. In addition, "funeral supplies and services" does not mean cemetery burial vaults or other outside containers, markers, monuments, urns, and merchandise items used for the purpose of memorializing a decedent and placed on or in proximity to a place of interment or entombment of a casket, catafalque, or vault or to a place of inurnment that are sold by a cemetery operating in accordance with Chapter 23.1 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Guaranteed contract price" means (i) the amount paid by the contract buyer on a preneed funeral contract, and income derived from that amount, or (ii) the amount paid by a contract buyer for a life insurance policy or annuity as the funding source and its increasing death benefit. These amounts shall be accepted as payment in full for the preselected funeral goods and services.

"Income" means the amount of gain received in a period of time from investment of consideration paid for a preneed contract.

"Nonguaranteed contract price" means the costs of items on a preneed funeral contract that are not fixed for the specified funeral goods or funeral services selected and nonguaranteed costs may increase from the date of the contract to the death of the contract beneficiary and the family or estate will be responsible for paying at the time of need for the services and supplies that were nonguaranteed. Cash advance items are not guaranteed.

18VAC65-30-20 to 18VAC65-30-30. [Repealed]

Part II. Sale of Preneed Plans.

18VAC65-30-40. [Repealed]

18VAC65-30-50. Solicitation.

A. In accordance with provisions of §54.1-2806 of the Code of Virginia, a licensee shall not initiate any preneed solicitation using in-person communication by the licensee, his agents, assistants, or employees.

B. After a request to discuss preneed planning is initiated by the contract buyer or interested consumer, any contact and in-person communication shall take place only with a funeral service licensee or funeral director.

Part III. Operational Responsibilities.

18VAC65-30-60. Records; general.

A. A licensee shall keep accurate accounts, books, and records of all transactions required by this chapter.

B. Preneed contracts and reporting documents shall be retained on the premises of the establishment for one year after the death of the contract beneficiary.

C. A funeral home shall keep on file a written verification from the insurance company that the insurance or annuity contract complies with §54.1-2820 C of the Code of Virginia.

D. All preneed records shall be available for inspection by the Department of Health Professions.

18VAC65-30-70. Record reporting.

A. A contract provider shall keep a chronological or an alphabetical listing of all preneed contracts. The listing shall include the following:

1. Name of contract buyer;
2. Name of contract beneficiary;
3. Date of contract;
4. How contract was funded;
5. Whether up to 10% of funds are retained by the contract provider for contracts funded through trust; and
6. Whether funeral goods and supplies are stored for the contract buyer.

B. A contract provider who discontinues its business operations shall notify the board and each existing contract buyer in writing.

Part IV. Contract.

18VAC65-30-80. Content and format.

A. A person residing or doing business within the Commonwealth shall not make, either directly or indirectly by any means, a preneed contract unless the contract buyer has been given in writing all information and disclosures required by law and regulation.

B. In addition to requirements of §54.1-2820 of the Code of Virginia, the contract shall contain the following:

1. The date of the contract;
2. Whether or not the price of the supplies and services purchased is guaranteed;
3. The appointee agreement when applicable; and
4. Signatures of the contract seller and the contract buyer.

C. If an appointee agreement has been signed, it shall be attached to the preneed contract as a valid part of the contract.

Part V. Disclosures.

18VAC65-30-90. Disclosures.

A. At the time of the inquiry, licensees shall furnish to each person inquiring about preneed arrangements a copy of the general price list and preneed disclosure questions and answers.

B. Immediately upon concluding the arrangement conference, licensees shall furnish to each person who makes a preneed arrangement a copy of the preneed contract and funding contract.

C. An itemized statement of funeral goods and services shall be given at the time of need even if the arrangements were made through a preneed contract.

Part VI. Funding.

18VAC65-30-100. Finance charges prohibited.

A licensee shall not charge finance charges on a preneed arrangement.

18VAC65-30-110. Cancellation or transfer of contract.

A. Any person who makes payment under this contract may terminate the agreement at any time prior to the time for which the services or supplies are furnished.

B. If the contract buyer terminates the contract within 30 days of the execution of the contract, the contract buyer shall be refunded all consideration paid or delivered and any interest or income accrued on it.

C. If the contract buyer uses a revocable trust as the funding source and terminates the contract after 30 days of the execution of the contract, the contract buyer shall be refunded:

1. All consideration paid or delivered on nonguaranteed items;
2. At least 90% of all consideration paid for guaranteed items; and
3. All interest or income accrued on it.

D. If the contract buyer uses an irrevocable trust as the funding source, the contract buyer is not able to cancel the trust after 30 days following its execution except in accordance with § 64.2-729 of the Code of Virginia.

E. The contract buyer shall have the right to change the contract provider and the trustee at any time prior to the furnishing of the services or supplies contracted for under the preneed contract.

18VAC65-30-120. Escrow account.

Within five banking days after the day of receipt of any money from the contract buyer and until the time the money is invested in a trust, life insurance, or annuity policy, the contract seller or the contract provider shall deposit the money into an escrow account in a bank or savings institution approved to do business in the Commonwealth.

18VAC65-30-130. Real estate.

When the consideration consists in whole or in part of any real estate, the following shall occur:

1. The preneed contract shall be recorded as an attachment to the deed whereby the real estate is conveyed; and
2. The deed shall be recorded in the clerk's office in the circuit court of the city or county in which the real estate being conveyed is located.

18VAC65-30-140. Personal property.

When the consideration consists in whole or in part of any personal property, the following shall occur:

1. Personal property shall be transferred by:
 - a. Actual delivery of the personal property; or
 - b. Transfer of the title to the personal property.
2. Within 30 days of receiving the personal property or the title to the personal property, the licensee or person delivering the property shall:
 - a. Execute a written declaration of trust setting forth the terms, conditions, and considerations upon which the personal property is delivered; and

b. Record the trust agreement in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the locality in which the person delivering the property is living; or

c. Record the preneed contract in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the locality in which the person delivering the property or trust agreement is living provided that the preneed contract sets forth the terms, conditions, and considerations of the trust.

18VAC65-30-150 to 18VAC65-30-160. [Repealed]

18VAC65-30-170. Trust accounts.

If funds are to be trusted, the trust account is to be established according to provisions of §§54.1-2822 and 54.1-2824 of the Code of Virginia and the following information shall be disclosed in writing to the contract buyer:

1. The amount to be trusted;
2. The name of the trustee;
3. The disposition of the interest;
4. The fees, expenses, and taxes which may be deducted from the interest;
5. Whether up to 10% is retained by the contract provider; and
6. A statement of the contract buyer's responsibility for taxes owed on the interest.

18VAC65-30-180. Life insurance or annuity.

If a life insurance or annuity policy is used to fund the preneed funeral contract, the contract shall be in compliance with provisions of §§ 38.2-3100.3 and 54.1-2820 B of the Code of Virginia and shall contain the following information:

1. Name of the contract provider;
2. Name and funeral license number of contract seller;
3. Place of employment of contract seller;
4. Name of insurance agent and agent's insurance license number;
5. Insurance agent's employer and insurance company represented by insurance agent; and
6. Identification as to whether the insurance agent is a funeral service licensee and, if so, the funeral service license number.

18VAC65-30-190. [Repealed]

Part VII. Supplies and Services.

18VAC65-30-200. Supplies and services.

A. If the contract seller will not be responsible for furnishing the supplies and services to the contract buyer, the contract seller shall attach to the preneed funeral contract a copy of the contract seller's agreement with the contract provider.

B. If any funeral supplies are sold and delivered to the contract provider prior to the death of the contract beneficiary, the risk of loss or damage shall be upon the contract provider during such period of storage.

C. If the particular supplies and services specified in the contract are unavailable at the time of delivery, the contract provider shall be required to furnish supplies and services similar in style and at least equal in quality of material and workmanship. The representative of the deceased shall have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted.

Part VIII. Required Content of Contracts and Disclosures.

18VAC65-30-210. [Repealed]

18VAC65-30-220. Content of preneed contracts.

The following information shall be contained in any contract for preneed funeral planning.

Date: _____

Contract: _____

PRENEED FUNERAL CONTRACT

For: (Name of Recipient of Services)

_____ (Zip) _____

I. SUPPLIES AND SERVICES PURCHASED

If the prices of goods and services are guaranteed, no additional cost will incur for your family or estate even though the actual prices of goods and services may increase between the date of this contract and the time of need. (Please see the disclosure document.)

Charges are only for those items that you selected or that are required. If we are required by law or by a cemetery or crematory to use an item, we will explain the reasons in writing below. If you selected a funeral that may require embalming, such as a funeral with a viewing, you may have to pay for embalming. You do not have to pay for embalming you did not select if you select arrangements such as a direct cremation or immediate burial.

Guaranteed Services Purchased

I. BASIC SERVICES OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND STAFF \$ _____

II. FUNERAL HOME FACILITIES

A. Facilities and Staff for visitation/viewing \$ _____

B. Facilities and Staff for funeral ceremony \$ _____

C. Facilities and Staff for memorial service \$ _____

D. Equipment and Staff for graveside service \$ _____

(NOTE TO FUNERAL HOME: If you have additional charges such as facilities and staff for home/church viewing, or a charge for additional staff person or through calculation of manhours, etc., add here as extra items. If you have a charge for equipment for interment, add here.)

III. EMBALMING

A. Normal remains \$ _____

B. Autopsy remains \$ _____

IV. OTHER PREPARATION OF THE BODY \$ _____

(NOTE: List all items that you placed under Other Preparation on your General Price List.)

V. IMMEDIATE BURIAL \$ _____

VI. DIRECT CREMATION \$ _____

VII. TRANSFER OF REMAINS TO FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT \$ _____

VIII. FORWARDING REMAINS TO ANOTHER FUNERAL HOME \$ _____

IX. RECEIVING REMAINS FROM ANOTHER FUNERAL HOME \$ _____

X. AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT

A. Hearse \$ _____

B. Limousine \$ _____

(NOTE: List all others that you placed on General Price List.)

XI. FUNERAL MERCHANDISE

A. Casket (*describe) _____ \$ _____

B. Outer Burial Container(*describe) _____ \$ _____

C. List any others _____ \$ _____

Supplies Purchased

Clothing \$ _____

Temporary marker \$ _____

Acknowledgment cards \$ _____

Register/attendance books \$ _____

Memorial folders \$ _____

Other \$ _____

SUBTOTAL COSTS OF (GUARANTEED) SUPPLIES PURCHASED: \$ _____

XII. PACKAGE PRICES

(NOTE: List all package prices by name.)

SUBTOTAL COSTS OF (GUARANTEED) SUPPLIES PURCHASED: \$ _____

Nonguaranteed Goods and Services Purchased

The actual prices of goods and services below are NOT GUARANTEED. These items may include, but not be limited to, obituary notices, death certificates, cemetery fees, flowers, sales tax, etc. The prices are estimated and the estimates will be included in the Grand Total Contract Price. The differences between the estimated prices below and the actual cost will be settled with your family or estate at the time of need:

SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF NONGUARANTEED ITEMS: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL FOR PRENEED ARRANGEMENTS

1. Total cost of (guaranteed) services purchased \$ _____

2. Total cost of (guaranteed) supplies purchased \$ _____

3. Total estimated cost of nonguaranteed items \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

The only warranties, express or implied, granted in connection with the goods sold in this preneed funeral contract, are the express written warranties, if any, extended by the manufacturers thereof. No other warranties and no warranties of MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE are extended by the (funeral home) _____.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

In order that the Buyer may understand the relationship of all parties involved in this preneed arrangement and contract, the following is provided:

- A. Buyer:
- B. Funeral Home Providing Services:
- C. Contract seller:

Employed by: (Funeral Home)

Virginia Funeral Director License Number:

Method of Funding

A. Insurance

B. Trust

1. Amount to be trusted:

2. Name of trustee:

3. Disposition of Interest:

4. Fees, expenses, taxes deducted from earned interest:

5. Buyer's responsibility for taxes owned on interest:

The following information will be given if an insurance policy or annuity contract is used to fund this agreement:

A. Buyer:

B. Insurance Company:

C. Insurance Agent:

Employed by: (Insurance Company)

Licensed Funeral Director or Funeral Service Licensee in Virginia: ___yes ___no

Funeral Director or Funeral Service License Number (If Applicable):

Employed by Funeral Home (If Applicable):

D. The life insurance or annuity contract provides either that:

_____ The face value thereof shall be adjusted annually by a factor equal to the Consumer Price Index as published by the Office of Management and Budget of the United States; or

_____ A benefit payable at death under such contract that will be equal or exceed the sum of all premiums paid for such contract plus thereon at the annual rate of at least 5.0%, compounded annually.

III. CONSUMER INFORMATION

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers is authorized by Chapter 28 (§54.1-2800 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia to regulate the practice of preneed funeral planning. Consumer complaints should be directed to:

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300

Richmond, Virginia 23233

Telephone Number 804-367-4479

Toll Free Number 1-800-533-1560

IV. DISCLOSURES

The disclosure statements will be available for your review. The General Price List shall be furnished to you by the contract seller. These contain information that you must receive by law and/or the authority of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers. You are entitled to receive all information in clear and simple language including the language of the funding agreement for this preneed arrangement.

If any law, cemetery, or crematory requires the purchase of any of those items listed in Part I, the requirements will be explained in writing.

By signing this contract, buyer acknowledges availability of and opportunity to read a copy of all of the required documents.

V. TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

This person who funds this contract through a trust agreement may terminate this preneed contract at any time prior to the furnishing of the services or supplies contracted for:

Within 30 days

If you terminate this preneed contract within 30 days of the date of this contract, you will be refunded all payments of whatever type you have made, plus any interest or income you may have earned.

More than 30 days

If you terminate this preneed contract more than 30 days after the date on this contract, you will be refunded whatever amount was required to be placed in a revocable trust fund, plus any interest or income it has earned.

Any person who funds this contract through a trust fund which is irrevocable or through an insurance/annuity policy or through the transfer of real estate/personal property may not be eligible for a refund.

VI. STATEMENT OF GUARANTEE

By signing this contract, (Funeral Home) _____ agrees to the statement checked below (check one):

_____ Prefinancing guarantees that no additional payment will be required from the family or estate for guaranteed services and supplies provided the Grand Total of these arrangements is paid in full and the interest is allowed to accumulate in your account (see page _____ for Grand Total amount). Payment of the difference will be required for the nonguaranteed estimated items if they increase in price.

_____ The prices for items under supplies and services are not guaranteed.

VII. AGREEMENT

In witness whereof, the Buyer and the Funeral Home have executed this contract, intending its terms to be in accordance with the Code of Virginia and any regulations implementing the Code. By signing this contract you acknowledge that you have been provided access to and the opportunity to read the Disclosure Statements.

(Designee of Funeral Home) (Buyer)

(Funeral Home) (Contract Date)

VIII. PENALTIES OR RESTRICTIONS

The (funeral home) _____, has the following penalties or restrictions on the provisions of this contract.

- 1. (Insert geographic restrictions);
- 2. (Insert an explanation of the Funeral Home's inability to perform the request(s) of the Buyer);
- 3. (Insert a description of any other circumstances which apply);
- 4. (Insert information that if particular goods and services specified in the contract are unavailable at the time of need):

A. The funeral home shall be required to furnish supplies and services similar in style and at least equal in quality of material and workmanship; and

B. The representative of the deceased shall have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted.

Addendum to Preneed Contract

APPOINTEE AGREEMENT

I appoint _____ of (address) _____ to assist with the preneed arrangements in my behalf. The relationship of my appointee to me is _____.

Contract Beneficiary: _____ Date: _____

I accept the request of (contract beneficiary) _____ to assist with his/her preneed arrangements.

Appointee: _____ Date: _____

The foregoing was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 19____

Notary: _____

Date Commission Expires: _____

18VAC65-30-230. Content of disclosure statements.

The following disclosure statements shall be provided as a part of any contract used for preneed funeral planning:

We are required by law and/or the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to provide access to and the opportunity for you to read the following information to assist you in preplanning. A question and answer format is used for clarity and includes the most commonly asked questions.

PRENEED CONTRACTS

-- Is there more than one type of preneed agreement?

Yes. Guaranteed contracts mean that the costs of certain individual items or the cost of the total package will never be more to your family or estate. Nonguaranteed means just the opposite. (See the section entitled "General Funding Information" for more information on guaranteed and nonguaranteed costs.)

Contracts may be funded by insurance/annuity policies, trusts, or transfer of real estate/personal property.

-- What are my protections?

You should take your completed preneed contract home before you sign it and review it with your family or your legal advisor. You have a right to this review before you sign the contract or pay any money.

You should also read carefully the information in this disclosure statement. If you have any questions, contact the seller for more information or contact your legal advisor.

CANCELLATION

-- Can I cancel my preneed agreement if I change my mind? Will I get my money back?

You may cancel payment for supplies or services within 30 days after signing the agreement. If you funded your preneed arrangement through a trust, the contract seller will refund all the money you have paid plus any interest or income you have earned.

If you funded your preneed arrangement through a revocable trust and you cancel the preneed contract AFTER the 30-day deadline, you will be refunded all of your money on the items that are not guaranteed and 90% of all your money on the items that are guaranteed. You will also receive any interest or income on that amount. A revocable trust is a trust that you can cancel.

There may be a penalty to withdraw money from a revocable trust account which has already been established in your name. If there is, your contract will give you this information. (See the first question under the section entitled "Payment" below.)

If you have funded your preneed arrangement through an irrevocable trust you will not be able to cancel the trust agreement or receive a refund after 30 days following its executive except in accordance with § 64.2-729 of the Code of Virginia.

If you funded your preneed arrangement through an insurance policy/annuity contract which will be used at the time of your death to purchase the supplies and services you have selected, you will need to pay careful attention to the cancellation terms and conditions of the policy. You may not be eligible for a refund.

PAYMENT

-- What happens to my money after the contract is signed?

Your money will be handled in one of several ways. It may be deposited in a separate trust account in your name. The trust account will list a trustee who will be responsible for handling your account. The funeral home you have selected as your beneficiary will also be listed. You have the right to change the funeral home and the trustee of your account prior to receiving the supplies and services under the preneed contract.

Your money may be used to purchase a preneed life insurance policy which may be used to pay for your arrangements upon your death. The proceeds of the policy will be assigned to the funeral home of your choice. You may change the funeral home assignment at any time prior to receiving the supplies and services under the preneed contract.

You may decide to choose a life insurance policy or a trust account that requires regular premium payments and not have to make an up-front, lump sum payment.

-- May I pay for goods and services with real estate or personal property?

Yes. When you pay for these supplies and services in whole or in part with any real estate you may own, the preneed contract that you sign will be attached to the deed on the real estate and the deed will be recorded in the clerk's office of the circuit court in the city or county where the real estate is located.

If you pay for goods and services with personal property other than cash or real estate, the contract seller, will declare in writing that the property will be placed in a trust until the time of your death and will give you written information on all the terms, conditions, and considerations surrounding the trust. The contract seller will confirm in writing that he has received property.

You may decide not to transfer the title of the personal property to the contract seller of your preneed contract. In this situation, you will have to submit information to the contract seller in writing that you are giving him the property without a title, and describe the property and where it will be kept until the time of your death.

In either case, the written statements will be recorded in the clerk's office of the circuit court of the city or county in which you live. The written statement does not have to be a separate document.

GENERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

-- If the prices of the goods and services are affected by inflation between now and my death, will the funding I choose be adjusted accordingly?

There is a possibility that the funding may fail to keep up with inflation. This could mean that the funding you choose could have insufficient value to cover all expenses.

-- What happens if my funding is not enough to cover the full cost of these arrangements?

If the entire funeral or specific items in the agreement are guaranteed by the contract seller, your family or estate will not have to pay any more for those items provided that you have paid the grand total in full and all interest earned is allowed to accumulate in your account. However, if you have not paid the account in full and have not allowed the interest to accumulate in the account and any items increase in price, your family or estate would be responsible for the extra amount if the funds are not sufficient. In some situations where you pay toward your funding with regular premiums rather than in one lump sum, your account may not be enough at the time of your death to cover everything.

-- What happens to the extra money if my funding is more than what is needed to pay for these arrangements?

Sometimes, as explained in the answer above, your funding account may not have had the time to grow sufficiently before your death to cover items which are guaranteed in price to you, yet have increased in price for the funeral home.

After funeral expenses are paid, there may be money left over. Because of the ongoing risk that a funeral home takes in guaranteeing prices for you, the funeral home may not be required to return this excess money.

Some funding agreements and funeral homes, however, require that extra money be returned to the estate or family. Others do not. You should obtain information concerning this in writing before signing the preneed contract.

The answers to the following questions will depend upon the terms and conditions of the individual's funding and preneed agreements.

Please review your preneed contract and/or funding agreement for answers to these questions.

-- What happens to my preneed contract if I change my assignment from one funeral home to another?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

-- What happens to my preneed contract if I change the beneficiary of my funding or the use of my proceeds from the funding.

If you make such changes, it could void your contract. You should request specific information from the contract seller and the funding arrangement.

-- What will happen to my preneed contract if I fail to make agreed to premium payments to my funding source?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

-- Do I get any money back if I surrender or cancel my funding arrangements?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

TRUST ACCOUNT

-- If my money goes into a trust account, what information will I receive about that account?

If you want your money to go into a trust fund, the trust agreement must furnish you with information about the amount to be deposited into the account, the name of the trustee, information about what happens to the interest your trust account will earn, and information about your responsibility to file and pay taxes on that interest.

If there are filing expenses connected with your trust account, you will be notified what the expenses are and whether you or the contract seller is the responsible party for paying those.

-- What happens to the interest earned by the trust?

The interest earned by the trust may be handled in different ways by different trust arrangements. The interest may have to go back into your account if items on your contract are guaranteed. You may be responsible for reporting that interest to the Internal Revenue Service and paying taxes on it. You will be responsible to pay any taxes on the interest earned even if you cancel your trust account.

Some trust accounts cannot be cancelled.

There may be special fees deducted from your interest. However, you may still be responsible for paying taxes on the entire amount of interest earned before the fees were deducted. Please ask your contract seller for a written list of any fees so you will have a clear understanding about them before you sign the contract.

-- If I pay my trust in premium payments, what happens if I die before the grand total of the funeral has been placed in trust?

(Funeral home shall place answer here)

CLAIMS AGAINST THIS CONTRACT

-- Can someone to whom I owe money make a claim against the money, personal property, or real estate that I have used to pay for this contract?

No. This money or property cannot be used to settle a debt, a bankruptcy, or resolve a claim. These funds cannot be garnished.

-- Can the money or property be taxed?

No. Currently, interest earned on the money you deposit in a trust, savings account, or the value of the property you used for payment can be taxed but not the original amount which you invested. Interest earned on annuities is generally deferred until withdrawal.

GENERAL GOODS AND SERVICES

-- If I choose goods and services that might not be available at the time of my death, what is the provider required to do?

The funeral home which you select is required to furnish supplies and services that are similar in style and equal in value and quality if what you choose is no longer made or is not available at the time of your death.

Your representative or next-of-kin will have the right to choose the supplies or services to be substituted. However, if the substitute is more expensive than the item originally selected by you, your designee or next-of-kin would be responsible for paying the difference. Under no circumstances will the funeral establishment be allowed to substitute lesser goods and services than the ones you chose.

If, before your death, the funeral home goes out of business or is otherwise unable to fulfill its obligation to you under the preneed contract, you have the right to use the proceeds at the funeral home of your choice.

If the inability to provide services does not become apparent until the time of your death, the individual that you named as your designee could use the funds for services at another funeral home.

-- May I choose the exact item I want now and have the funeral home store it until my death?

If the funeral home or supplier has a storage policy you may ask for this service. If the funeral home or contract seller agrees to store these items, the risk of loss or damage shall be upon the funeral home during the storage period.

For example, what would happen if you select a casket which is in-stock at the time you make these arrangements and the funeral home or supplier agrees to store it for you in their warehouse and: (i) damage occurs, (ii) the funeral home or supplier goes out of business, (iii) the funeral home or supplier is sold, etc.? You need to be assured in writing of protection in these types of situations.

-- What happens if I choose to have a unique service that is not customary or routine in my community? Must the funeral home comply with my wishes?

The funeral home which you have chosen to conduct your service may be able to only provide certain types of services. They may not be able to fulfill your request. If there is a restriction on what they can provide, you will be notified in writing before you sign the preneed contract.

If the funeral home agrees in writing before you sign the contract to perform such services, the funeral home shall provide you a written, itemized statement of fees which you will be charged.

-- Will the funeral home agree to transport my body to another area for burial?

Again, the funeral home may have restrictions on the distance they are willing to travel to conduct a burial. If restrictions apply, you will be notified in writing.

If the funeral home agrees in writing before you sign the contract to honor your wishes, the funeral home shall provide you a written, itemized statement of any penalties (fees) which you will be charged.

-- I may die and be buried in a city other than one where the funeral home that I select for my goods and services is located. Will the funeral home that I select under this contract deliver my merchandise to the city where I die and am to be buried?

This is entirely up to the funeral home to decide. If the funeral home has restrictions on this, they will notify you in writing. If they agree to ship merchandise to another area for your funeral, you will be notified before signing this contract of the fees involved if they can be determined and guaranteed at this time.

However, the preneed contract arrangements and funding is considered portable. This means that they are available for transfer from one locality to another. It is unusual for actual goods and merchandise to be transferred.

PRICING

-- How will I know that the prices of items which I select are the same for everyone?

The funeral home maintains a general price list and a casket and outer burial container price list. Your contract seller will give this to you before you begin talking about arrangements. After your discussion is finished, you will be given a copy of your preneed contract on which charges will be listed. Charges will only be made for the items you select. If there are any legal or other requirements that mandate that you must buy any items you did not specifically ask for, the contract seller will explain the reason for the charges to you in writing.

You may ask a funeral home to purchase certain items or make special arrangements for you. If the funeral home charges you for these services, you will receive an explanation in writing. The charges to you for these services may be higher than if you or your family purchased them directly.

At the time of your death, your family or estate will be given an itemized statement which will list all of the specific charges.

-- What is meant by guaranteed and nonguaranteed prices?

Some contract sellers may agree that certain prices are guaranteed. Some may guarantee the price of the total package. Other funeral homes may not guarantee any prices.

Guaranteed prices are those that will not increase for your family or estate at the time of your death. Basically, this means that your funeral arrangement for those items will be covered by and will not exceed your funding and the interest it earns. Nonguaranteed prices are those which might increase or decrease. The nonguaranteed prices may be written in at the time of this contract with you understanding that the price is an estimate only and may increase or decrease. A settlement to that effect may have to be made with your family or representative after your death.

-- Can the contract seller and I negotiate a projected charge for the nonguaranteed items based on the rate of inflation?

It is entirely up to the contract seller to inform you of the funeral home policy in that regard.

CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

-- Do I have to buy a vault or a container to surround the casket in the grave?

In most areas of the country, state and local laws do not require that you buy a container to surround the casket in the grave. However, many cemeteries ask that you have such a container to support the earth above the grave. Either a burial vault or a grave liner will satisfy if such requirements exist.

-- Is a casket required?

A casket is not required for direct cremation. If you want to arrange a direct cremation, you may use an unfinished wood box or an alternative container made of heavy cardboard or composition materials. You may choose a canvas pouch.

-- Do certain cemeteries and crematoriums have special requirements?

Particular cemeteries and crematoriums may have policies requiring that certain goods and services be purchased. If you decide not to purchase goods and services required by a particular cemetery or crematorium, you have the right to select another location that has no such policy.

EMBALMING

-- Is embalming always required?

Except in certain special cases, embalming is not required by law. Embalming may be necessary, however, if you select certain funeral arrangements such as viewing or visitation with an open casket. You do not have to pay for embalming you did not approve if you select arrangements such as a direct cremation or immediate burial. If the funeral home must charge to conduct an embalming, your designee will be notified of the reasons in writing.

ASSISTANCE

-- This is all very confusing to me. May I pick someone close to me to help with all of this? May this person also work with the funeral home to ensure that my wishes as written in the preneed contract are carried out?

You may designate in writing a person of your choice to work with the funeral home and contract seller either before or after your death to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. You must sign the statement and have it notarized. The person that you designate must agree to this in writing. Under the laws governing preneed contracts, the individual whom you designate has final authority at the time of your death.

-- Where can I complain if I have a problem concerning my preneed contract, the contract seller, or the funeral home?

You may direct your complaints or concerns to:

The Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Richmond, Virginia 23233

Telephone Number (804) 367-4479

Toll Free Number 1-800-533-1560

Fax: (804) 939-5973

**REGULATIONS FOR THE
FUNERAL ~~SERVICE~~ INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

VIRGINIA BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS

Part I. General Provisions.

18VAC65-40-10. Definitions.

In addition to words and terms defined in § 54.1-2800 of the Code of Virginia, the following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Direct supervision" means that a person licensed for the practice of funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming professional is present and on the premises of the facility.

"Supervisor" means a licensed employee at the training site who has been approved by the board to provide supervision for the funeral intern.

"Training site" means the licensed funeral establishment, facility, or institution that has agreed to serve as a location for a funeral service internship and has been approved by the board.

18VAC65-40-20 to 18VAC65-40-30. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-40. Fees.

A. The following fees shall be paid as applicable for registration:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Funeral service, <u>funeral directing, or embalming</u> intern registration | \$150 |
| 2. Funeral service, <u>funeral directing, or embalmer</u> intern renewal | \$125 |
| 3. Late fee for renewal up to one year after expiration | \$45 |
| 4. Duplicate copy of intern registration | \$25 |
| 5. Returned check | \$35 |
| 6. Registration of supervisor | \$35 |
| 7. Change of supervisor | \$35 |
| 8. Reinstatement fee | \$195 |

B. Fees shall be made payable to the Treasurer of Virginia and shall not be refundable once submitted.

18VAC65-40-50 to 18VAC65-40-80. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-90. Renewal of registration.

A. The funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming intern registration shall expire on March 31 of each calendar year and may be renewed by submission of the renewal notice and prescribed fee.

B. A person who fails to renew a registration by the expiration date shall be deemed to have an invalid registration. No credit will be allowed for an internship period served under an expired registration.

C. The funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming intern is responsible for notifying the board within 14 days of any changes in name, address, employment, or supervisor. Any notices shall be validly given when mailed to the address on record with the board.

18VAC65-40-100. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-110. Reinstatement of expired registration.

A. A funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming intern whose registration has expired may be reinstated within one year following expiration by payment of the current renewal fee and the late renewal fee.

B. A funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming intern whose registration has been expired for more than one year shall apply for reinstatement by submission of an application and payment of a reinstatement fee. The board may consider reinstatement of an expired registration for up to three years following expiration.

C. When a registration is not reinstated within three years of its expiration date, a new application for registration shall be filed and a new internship begun.

18VAC65-40-120. [Repealed]

Part II. ~~Funeral Service~~ Internship Requirements.

18VAC65-40-130. Funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming internship.

A. ~~The internship~~ An internship for funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming shall consist of at least ~~3,000~~ 2,000 hours of training to be completed within no less than 12 months and no more than 48 months. For good cause shown, the board may grant an extension of time for completion of an internship.

B. The ~~funeral service~~ intern shall be assigned a work schedule of not less than 20 hours nor more than 60 hours per week in order to receive credit for such training. For good cause shown, the board may waive the limitation on an intern's work schedule.

C. A funeral service intern shall receive training in all areas of funeral service.

D. A funeral directing intern shall receive training in all areas of funeral directing, including assisting in at least 25 funerals, 25 arrangement conferences, as well as visitations and financing of funeral services.

E. An embalming intern shall receive training in all aspects of embalming practice, including assisting in at least 25 embalmings, as well as treatment, restorative art, safety and sanitation, and organ, tissue, or anatomical donation.

18VAC65-40-140 to 18VAC65-40-170. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-180. Intern application package for funeral service licensure.

A. Any person who meets the qualifications of §54.1-2817 of the Code of Virginia may seek registration with the board as a funeral service intern by submission of an application package, which shall include documentation of the qualifications and signatures of any supervising licensees.

B. Applicants shall submit school transcripts as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

18VAC65-40-185. Intern application for funeral directing and embalming licensure.

A. An applicant, who attests to holding a high school diploma or its equivalent, may seek registration with the board as a funeral directing or an embalming intern by submission of an application package, which shall include documentation of the qualifications and signatures of any supervising licensees.

B. Applicants shall submit school transcripts as part of an application package, including the required fee and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

C. The board, in its discretion, may approve an application to be a funeral directing or an embalming intern for an individual convicted of a felony, if the applicant has successfully fulfilled all conditions of sentencing, been pardoned, or has had civil rights restored. The board shall not, however, approve an application to be an intern for any person convicted of embezzlement or of violating subsection B of Virginia Code § 18.2-126. The board, in its discretion, may refuse to approve an application to be a funeral directing or an embalming intern for an individual who has a criminal or disciplinary proceeding pending against him in any jurisdiction in the United States.

18VAC65-40-190 to 18VAC65-40-200. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-201. Failure to register.

If the internship is not approved by the board prior to initiation of training, no credit shall be allowed for the length of time served.

18VAC65-40-210. Training sites.

A. Funeral training shall be given at the licensed funeral service establishment or at any branch of such establishment that complies with the provisions of this chapter and is approved by the board as a training site.

B. An individual, firm, or corporation owning or operating any funeral service establishment shall apply to and be approved by the board prior to permitting funeral training to be given or conducted in the establishment.

18VAC65-40-220. Qualifications of training site.

A. The board shall approve only an establishment or two combined establishments to serve as the training site or sites that:

1. Have a full and unrestricted Virginia license;
2. Have complied in all respects with the provisions of the regulations of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers; and
3. Have For a funeral service internship, have 50 or more funerals and 50 or more bodies for embalming over a 12-month period for each person to be trained. This total must be maintained throughout the period of training. If the establishment does not meet the required number of funerals or embalmings, the funeral service intern may seek approval for an additional training site; or
4. For a funeral directing internship, have 50 or more funerals over a 12-month period for each person to be trained. This total must be maintained throughout the period of training. If the establishment does not meet the required number of funerals, the funeral directing intern may seek approval for an additional training site; or
5. For an embalming internship, have 50 or more bodies for embalming over a 12-month period for each person to be trained. This total must be maintained throughout the period of training. If the establishment does not meet the required number of embalmings, the embalming intern may seek approval for an additional training site.

B. The board may grant approval for a ~~resident trainee~~ funeral service or embalming intern to receive all or a portion of the embalming training at a facility of state or federal government or an accredited educational institution.

18VAC65-40-230 to 18VAC65-40-240. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-250. Requirements for supervision.

A. Training shall be conducted under the direct supervision of a licensee or licensees approved by the board. Credit shall only be allowed for training under direct supervision.

B. The board shall approve only funeral service licensees, licensed funeral directors, or licensed embalmers to give funeral training who have a full and unrestricted Virginia funeral license, have at

least two consecutive years in practice and are employed full time in or under contract with the establishment, facility, or institution where training occurs.

C. A supervisor licensed as an embalmer or a funeral director shall provide supervision only in the areas of funeral practice for which he is licensed.

D. Failure to register as a supervisor may subject the licensee to disciplinary action by the board.

E. If a supervisor is unable or unwilling to continue providing supervision, the ~~funeral service~~ intern shall obtain a new supervisor. Credit for training shall resume when a new supervisor is approved by the board and the intern has paid the prescribed fee for the change of supervisor.

F. No more than a combined total of two funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming interns shall be concurrently registered under any one person licensed for the practice of funeral service, funeral directing or embalming. Each supervisor for a registered funeral directing intern or a registered embalming intern must be actively employed by or under contract with a funeral establishment.

18VAC65-40-260 to 18VAC65-40-270. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-280. Supervisor application package.

A. A licensee seeking approval by the board as a supervisor shall submit a completed application and any additional documentation as may be required to determine eligibility.

B. The application for supervision of a funeral service, funeral directing, or embalming intern shall be signed by the establishment manager and by the persons who will be providing supervision for embalming, funeral directing, or and for ~~the~~ funeral services.

18VAC65-40-290. through 18VAC65-40-310. [Repealed]

18VAC65-40-320. Reports to the board: six-month report; partial report.

A. The intern, the supervisor or supervisors, and the establishment shall submit a written report to the board at the end of every 1,000 hours of training. The report shall:

1. Specify the period of time in which the 1,000 hours has been completed and verify that the intern has actually served in the required capacity during the preceding period; and

2. Be received in the board office no later than 14 days following the end of the completion of 1,000 hours. ~~Late reports may result in additional time being added to the internship.~~

B. If the internship is terminated or interrupted prior to completion of 1,000 hours or if the intern is changing supervisors or training sites, the intern and the supervisor shall submit a partial report to the board with a written explanation of the cause of program termination or interruption or of the change in training or supervision.

1. The partial report shall provide the amount of time served and the dates since the last reporting period. Credit for partial reports shall be given for the number of hours of training completed.

2. Partial reports shall be received in the board office no later than 14 days after the interruption or termination of the internship or after the change in supervisors or training sites. ~~Credit may be deducted for late reports.~~

C. An intern shall not receive credit for training hours on a new 1,000 hour report until the previous 1,000 hour report has been approved by the Board.

D. Credit shall not be allowed for any period of internship that has been completed more than three years prior to application for license or more than five years prior to examination for license. If all requirements for licensure are not completed within five years of initial application, the board may deny an additional internship. A funeral directing or an embalming intern may continue to practice for up to 90 days from the completion of his internship hours or until he has taken and received the results of all examinations required by the board, whichever occurs first. However, the board may waive such limitation for any person in the armed service of the United States when application for the waiver is made in writing within six months of leaving service or if the board determines that enforcement of the limitation will create an unreasonable hardship.

18VAC65-40-330. Failure to submit training report.

If the intern, supervisor, or establishment manager fails to submit the reports required in 18VAC65-40-320, the intern may forfeit all or partial credit for training or disciplinary action may be taken against the intern, supervisor and establishment manager.

Part III. Internship: Funeral Supervisors' Responsibilities.

18VAC65-40-340. Supervisors' responsibilities.

A. The supervisor shall provide the intern with all applicable laws and regulations or sections of regulations relating to the funeral industry.

B. The supervisor shall provide the intern with copies of and instruction in the use of all forms and price lists employed by the funeral establishment.

C. The supervisor shall provide ~~the~~ a funeral service or funeral directing intern with instruction in all aspects of funeral services and shall allow the intern under direct supervision to conduct all necessary arrangements for a minimum of 25 funerals.

D. The embalming supervisor shall provide instruction on all necessary precautions, embalming functions, and reporting forms and shall allow the funeral service or embalming intern under direct supervision to perform a minimum of 25 embalmings.

E. The supervisor shall provide the funeral service or funeral directing intern with instruction in making preneed funeral arrangements and instruction on the laws and regulations pertaining to preneed funeral contracts and disclosures.

F. The supervisor shall provide the funeral service or funeral directing intern instruction on cremation and on the laws and regulations pertaining to cremation.

G. If a training site does not offer preneed funeral planning or cremation services, the supervisor shall arrange for such training at another licensed funeral establishment that does.

18VAC65-40-350 to 18VAC65-40-630. [Repealed]

Part IV. Refusal, Suspension, Revocation, and Disciplinary Action.

18VAC65-40-640. Disciplinary action.

The board may refuse to issue or renew a license, registration, or approval to any applicant; and may suspend for a stated period of time or indefinitely, or revoke any license, registration, or approval, or reprimand any person, or place his license or registration on probation with such terms and conditions and for such time as it may designate or impose a monetary penalty for failure to comply with the laws and regulations of the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers.

DRAFT

Laws, Rules, and Regulations
Exam - Candidate Handbook
(Excerpted)

LAWS EXAMINATION

(LAWS, RULES, &
REGULATIONS, LRR, LR)

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK
2020



Introduction

About The Candidate Handbook

This Handbook serves as the primary source of information for those applying to take the Laws Exam (Laws, Rules & Regulations; LRR; LR) for funeral service. Since every situation and every circumstance cannot be cited in a document like this, other International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards (The Conference) policies, procedures, and instructions may also apply.

This Handbook provides the information you will need regarding exam policies, eligibility requirements, application process and fees, exam scheduling, and scoring, as well as your obligation to exam security. You are advised to periodically check our website (theconferenceonline.org) for any changes that may be made after this Handbook is published. Although The Conference gives candidates as much advance notice as possible when policies and procedures change, it is always your responsibility to make sure you are fully informed about the current requirements and policies.

The policies and procedures in this Handbook may be modified, amended, or canceled by The Conference or your state at any time, with or without notice. This edition of the Handbook supersedes all prior policies or procedures as to the subjects addressed in it and all representations, oral or written. It is recommended that candidates utilize the web version of this Handbook on The Conference's website in order to access the hyperlinks and ensure they are reviewing the most up-to-date version.

The Conference recommends carefully reading and thoroughly understanding every topic in this Handbook, as candidates agree to the terms of this Handbook at time of application.

This Candidate Handbook applies to the following Laws Exams:

Arkansas – AR LRR	Nevada – NV LRR	Virginia – VA LRR
Delaware – DE LRR	Ohio – OH LR	Washington – WA LRR
Louisiana – LA LRR	South Carolina – SC LRR	West Virginia – WV LRR
Maine – ME LRR	Tennessee – TN LRR	
Missouri – MO LRR	Vermont – VT LRR	

About The Conference

The Conference is a not-for-profit voluntary association providing examination services, information, and regulatory support to funeral service licensing boards and educators, governmental bodies and other regulatory agencies.

Vision Statement

To be the collective voice of the funeral service regulatory community and promote excellence in regulation through the sharing of best practices and the facilitation of open dialogues across all jurisdictions.

Mission Statement

To be the premier source for examination services, information and regulatory support for the death care profession by continually monitoring the regulatory environment and providing services to meet the needs of our membership.

Goals

1. Define and enhance the identity and the role of The Conference to increase stakeholder understanding.
2. Increase the effectiveness of The Conference through the development of the Board and staff.
3. Enhance and expand communication to member boards, associate members, and exam candidates for understanding the purpose of The Conference.
4. Expand and enhance The Conference member services to support the regulatory community.

Contacting Us

If you have questions about a policy or procedure, please visit our website at theconferenceonline.org, email us at info@theconferenceonline.org, or call us at (479) 442-7076. The Conference office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CT. Any office closures will be posted on our website.



Contacting You

The Conference's primary form of communication with you will be via email. It is your responsibility to keep The Conference apprised of your current contact information. If you do not have an email address, please contact The Conference office for updates.

Privacy

For security reasons, before any information is released over the phone, the caller may be asked for identifying information. This security measure helps The Conference protect your information from being inappropriately released. Exam results are never released over the phone or through email.

About The Laws Exam

Purpose

The purpose of the Laws Exam is to provide official licensing agencies with an evaluation of an applicant for licensure in the diverse areas of competency regarding the state's laws, rules, and/or regulations relating to funeral service within their jurisdiction. The Conference administers and provides score reporting services to the licensing board as part of the licensure process.

Exam Structure & Content

The Laws Exam is administered as a timed examination with a preset number of items.

The Laws Exam is developed by the state licensing board to reflect current laws, rules, and regulations relating to the funeral service profession.

Each question on the Laws Exam is tied to a state law, rule, statute, and/or regulation.

State Laws Exam	Items on Exam	Time	Pass Score
Arkansas	50	1 hour	75
Delaware	50	1 hour	70
Louisiana	50	1 hour	75
Maine	50	1 hour	75
Missouri	50 – scored 10 – pretest	1 hour	75
Nevada	50	1 hour	70
Ohio	50	1 hour	75
South Carolina	50 – scored 5 – pretest	1 hour	75
Tennessee	50 – scored 10 – pretest	1 hour	75
Vermont	100	2 Hours	75
Virginia	50	1 hour	75
Washington	50 – scored 10 – pretest	1 hour	75
West Virginia	100	1 hour 40 minutes	75

Summary of Survey
Information from the
International Conference -
Funeral Director-Only
Licensure - Education and
Coursework Requirements

Funeral Director Only License (as of August 2020)

Alabama – No Science courses required

- **Section 34-13-50**

Board recognition of schools and colleges.

...The board may not examine or issue a funeral director's license to any person who has not completed a course of instruction in funeral arts at an accredited mortuary or funeral service school or college meeting the criteria or standards defined in this section.

Section 34-13-72

Qualifications of applicants; examination requirements; fee.

(a) An applicant for a funeral director's license is entitled to an examination if he or she all of the following:

...

(5) Has completed a course of instruction in an accredited mortuary or funeral service school or college which has been approved by the board pursuant to Section 34-13-50, or has completed a bachelor's degree program from an accredited school.

Alaska

Arizona - In AZ a Funeral Director must graduate mortuary school, which includes the science courses you mentioned. The only way a Funeral Director would not be required to have had mortuary school (which would include the science courses), is if the individual came to the state via the Governor's new "Universal Recognition".(UR). "UR" allows someone who holds an active license (good standing) in another state to come to AZ and receive the same license. So, if a Funeral Director from California (a.k.a. glorified arranger) moved to AZ, they could obtain a Funeral Director license here without having taken those science courses.

Arkansas – New provision* A.C.A §17-29-302 (c) (1) The board shall require applicants for licensure as funeral directors to successfully complete up to twenty (20) hours of classroom instruction in funeral service practices and ethics, laws, and rules affecting funeral service. (2) Only courses of instruction approved by the board shall satisfy the requirement under subdivision (c)(1) of this section.

California - Pursuant to BPC section [7619](#), the applicant for a funeral director's license shall be at least 18 years of age, possess an associate of arts or science degree [*which can be in any field of study*], or the equivalent, or a higher level of education as recognized by the Western Association of Colleges and Universities, or any other nationally recognized accrediting body of colleges and universities, and shall not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

Pursuant to BPC section [7622](#), before an individual is granted a funeral director's license, he or she shall successfully pass an examination upon the following subjects:

- The signs of death.
- The manner by which death may be determined.
- The laws governing the preparation, burial and disposal of human remains, and the shipment of bodies dying from infectious or contagious diseases.
- Local health and sanitary ordinances and regulations relating to funeral directing and embalming.

Connecticut

Delaware

Florida – Bachelor’s or Associate’s Degree in Mortuary Science or other

Section 497.373, Florida Statutes, provides that the educational requirements for this type of licensure are that an applicant have an AA degree, AS degree, or an associate in applied science degree in mortuary science. The other option is that the applicant have any AA degree and also graduate from a course of study in mortuary science or funeral service arts. There are statutory exceptions. However, in all instances, science courses are required.

Idaho – 2 options

a) Has completed and received at least forty-five (45) semester hours or sixty-eight (68) quarter hours of instruction from a duly accredited college or university and has obtained at least a C grade average for all courses of instruction; provided, however, at least three-fourths (3/4) of all such credits must be for courses in the fields of liberal arts, business, or science as defined and specified by the board.

(b) Has successfully completed at least fifteen (15) semester credit hours or the equivalent from a mortuary college accredited by the American board of funeral service education, inc., or such credits as are otherwise approved by the board, with course of study to include business law, psychology, sociology, funeral service counseling, funeral service management, and other classes that relate to conducting funeral business.

Kansas - Kansas does offer a funeral director only license, but no science courses are required.

- 1) provide transcripts showing credit of not less than two (2) years of general college education with at least 60 semester hours, to include the following subjects determined by the board:

- A) six (6) semester hours in Humanities; six (6) semester hours in Social Science; four (4) semester hours in Natural Science; two (2) semester hours in Business; two (2) semester hours in Fine Arts, and
- B) 40 semester hours of the applicant's choice. Meeting these requirements are determined by the board. Please feel free to direct any questions to the board’s office

Kentucky – No formal education required (apprenticeship only)

Louisiana

Maryland – Associate’s Degree in Mortuary Science

- Requirements are the same as Mortician except they are exempt from embalming to include the state practical examination.

Mississippi - No formal education required (apprenticeship only)

Missouri – 2 options – No Science courses required

- Serve a 12-month apprenticeship and pass the SBE Arts and MO LRR

- Graduate from a funeral director program (certificate of proficiency or mortuary school & pass SBE Arts and MO LRR)

Nevada - No formal education required (must have 1 year of active practice as a Funeral Arranger in NV)

North Carolina – 2 options

The traditional pathway requires passing scores on the State Boards for the Funeral Director License. These examinations are:

- The Arts
- Laws, Rules & Regulations of NC
- Pathology

The provisional pathway requires passing scores on The Arts and Laws, Rules & Regulations of NC. Pathology is not a required examination through the provisional pathway.

In 2018, the NC Board of Funeral Service eliminated a requirement for candidates to have completed specific, designated academic courses. The Board will issue a license to candidates with a 12-month diploma from a program in Funeral Directing approved by the Board or accredited by the ABFSE.

Ohio

Oklahoma - at least thirty (30) semester hours or Equivalent closely following the ABFSE curriculum standard, limited to only: Business Management, Cremation, Social Sciences/Humanities, Legal, Ethical, Regulatory, plus essential elements of embalming, restorative art, general concerns when dealing with human remains, a practicum experience and preparation for the required board exams.

Oregon

Pennsylvania - PA requires the science course for funeral directors.

South Carolina – 4 options

- complete the full mortuary science course at an accredited mortuary school;
- complete a one year certificate program in funeral directing approved by the Board (Piedmont Technical College offers this program in SC);
- have a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited four year college or university;
- complete sixty semester hours at a regionally accredited college or university that includes 24 semester hours divided among four out of five specific areas of study, which are spelled out in regulation.

Tennessee – Completion of funeral service education program of not less than 30 hours

Requires the applicant to complete 30 semester hours of education at a mortuary college whose normal coursework is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education. The mortuary college determines the specific courses for the funeral director only program.

Texas - In Texas statute, decomposition and mode of death are topics listed that will be tested for the licensing exam. However, since the state has moved to the SBE Arts for the Funeral Director license, those science-like topics are not tested; even though they should be taught in the schools, which they are not.

Vermont

Other requirements are listed on pages 6 and 7 in [Regulations in Licensing](#)

Public Comment
for September 1, 2020

----- Forwarded message -----

From: IFHV <ifhvoffice@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Aug 30, 2020 at 5:07 PM

Subject: Comments for consideration by Regulatory Advisory Panel and Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers related to implementation of SB 1044

To: Tillman Wolf, Corie (DHP) <Corie.Wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Cc: <elaine.yeatts@dhp.virginia.gov>, Paul Welch <paulwelch2@va.metrocast.net>, Bruce Keeney <KeeneyGroup@gmail.com>

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia (IFHV) and specifically the numerous members who participated in developing recommendations on the regulatory process related to SB 1044 of the Virginia General Assembly. Specifically, we would like to comment on a suggestion and a “licensed funeral director” (those licensed after January 1, 2020) NOT be permitted to serve as a “Manager of Record.” Your distributing these to the RAP members would be appreciated.

The Code of Virginia (54.1-2800 Definitions) states: (emphasis added)

1. "Funeral director" means any person *engaged in the practice of funeral directing*.
2. "*Funeral directing*" means the for-profit profession of directing or supervising funerals, preparing human dead for burial *by means other than embalming*, or making arrangements for funeral services or the financing of funeral services.
3. While the Code of Virginia does not appear to define a “*Manager of Record*” that term is defined in the Board’s regulations as “a funeral service licensee or funeral director who provides “direct supervision and management of a funeral service establishment or branch facility.”

We note that at present, the few licensed funeral directors have been trained in performing embalming. These few licensed funeral directors have the training and experience to serve as a Manager of Record since they have the training and knowledge to provide the proper supervision and management of funeral homes and branch establishments. It is the Manager of Record who oversees that delivery of all services is proper and in compliance with laws to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. How can a “Funeral Director”, with limited (and no hands on) knowledge of embalming, be expected to properly *supervise and manage that aspect of the funeral home’s services*.

We have two suggestions to address this concern, noting #1 is preferred as it is less confusing. Both #1 and #2 will help clarify that a Funeral Director has limited and no hands on knowledge of embalming. Both will address the concerns of those of the Moslem faith.

1. In the new regulations, state that **a licensed funeral director, licensed after (a specific date when the regulations go into effect) may not serve as a Manager of Record**. This would grandfather the few current Funeral Directors and allow them to continue as a Manager of Record due to their full level of training and experience.

OR

2. In the new regulations, state that **a licensed funeral director licensed after (a specific date when the regulations go into effect) may serve as a Manager of Record ONLY at funeral establishments or branch facilities where embalming services are NOT provided.** This approach would clearly allow those of the Moslem faith to serve as a Manager or Record since their faith prohibits providing embalming services. Likewise, due to insufficient level of training on embalming, a licensed funeral director would NOT be allowed to be the Manager of Record at funeral establishments or branch facilities were available.

Especially with concerns related to infectious disease and hazardous waste, it is most important that those who “direct and supervise” funeral homes (the Manager of Record) be thoroughly trained and experienced in embalming services. This is particularly true in that the level of education to be required of a Funeral Director as related to embalming has yet to be determined. Nor is there a history as to whether those requirements will be insufficient or not.

Your consideration of these recommendations will be appreciated.

Bruce B. Keeney, Sr.

Executive Director & Legislative Counsel
Association of Independent Funeral Homes of Virginia
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Glen Allen, VA 23060
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(804) 643-0311 fax
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www.ifhv.org

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 10:54 AM <raziiali***@gmail.com> wrote:

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Raziuddin Ali
Midlothian
23113

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:11 AM ammoulette1 <ammou*****@gmail.com>

wrote:

Greetings, Director Wolf and Senator McPike.

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community as to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

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I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Amal Damaj
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:12 AM Halimah Abdul-Mateen <ummi****@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Official,

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions. The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

2) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Halimah Abdul-Mateen
Richmond, VA

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:16 AM Nabeela Perwez <nabe****@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Respected Leaders,

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety, and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally, I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.



Nabeela Perwez

Glen Allen 23059

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:22 AM Sidra Butt <si****@gmail.com> wrote:

It has come to my attention that under the guise of regulations, safety, and other reasons, the IFHV is requiring competency in embalming. This comes across as islamophobic and antisemitic since anyone who is in the business of funeral services should be well versed and educated in what different faiths require and do not require and what is scientifically safe or not. It is a well known fact that embalming has never been a part of a regular funeral but truly just a money making scheme since the only thing that is needed is refrigeration of the body. Without embalming the body goes through the natural process of decomposition unlike being mummified or just for cosmetic reasons.

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you,
Sidra Butt DDS.

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:29 AM Agha W. Haider <w****@yahoo.com> wrote:

As a member of the community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Agha W. Haider

Midlothian, Va 23113

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On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 12:00 PM Sara Jamal <sj***@hotmail.com> wrote:

I would like to emphasize on the importance of having a licensed individual familiar with the funeral rites for the Muslim community. I'm happy to see the initiative with this regard. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sara Jamal
Glen Allen, Va

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 11:31 AM Suja S. Amir <suja*****@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Wolf,

SB1044 sought to address the concern that current prerequisites for applicants as a funeral service licensee required demonstrating competency in embalming. Embalming is against Islamic burial rites. The current licensing structure is prohibitive and inequitable to the Muslim community by depriving their community of having a member of their faith, fulfill their rites and traditions. I attended the last meeting.

However, the recommendation by the IFHV is of deep concern and seems to disregard the concerns of the Muslim community and make SB1044 null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions. I am not sure where that was referenced in the presentation made by Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) .

2) According to the IFHV recommendations, the funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by Imam Ammar, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was because of opposition to standards of care, safety and competence.

4) Manager of Record (MOR) - the recommendation requiring that the MOR be licensed to provide "any and all services", discriminates against the Muslim community. If this recommendation is accepted, by default, a Muslim will not be able to become the MOR without embalming obtaining training. And therefore, the implication is that only someone who is NOT Muslim will only be allowed to be a MOR. Additionally, implicating that the Muslim community needs oversight by a non-Muslim in order to ensure standards.

5) The Regulatory Advisory Committee -- there seems to be a conflict of interest of the members of the RAP given that the many of the members of the RAP have affiliations with IFHV.

This voids the independent intent of the committee as undue influence can create barriers and may not be able to contribute to balancing the interests of the varied stakeholders equitably.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's legislation. Grieving families, from all beliefs should be able to have access, availability to funeral services in accordance with their rites. Additionally, a competitive workforce is very important, and I support a competition in this area.

Thank you for your time.

Suja S. Amir, MPA

" You learn a lot about someone when you share a meal together." Anthony Bourdain

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 12:46 PM Nancy Wein <wein*****@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Wolf:

I am writing in support of Senator Jeremy McPike's bill, SB1044.

I am concerned that the comments given by the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPike's bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Nancy Wein

North Chesterfield, VA 23236

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 1:32 PM Iram Amir <iram*****@gmail.com> wrote:

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) are discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community, and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPike's bill SB104, null and void.

1) It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage, and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2) The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3) There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety, and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance with their religious requirements, additionally, I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Signed
Iram Amir
Glen Allen 23060

On Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 1:36 PM Anita <anitaelcock@almdinarichmond.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

As a member of the Muslim community, I am concerned that the comments given by the the Association of Independent Funeral Homes (IFHV) is discriminatory, prohibitive against the Muslim community and seeks to make the intention of Senator McPikes bill SB104, null and void.

1)It seems that IFHV believes that the objection the Muslim community has to the current structure is due to "fees or payments received for transportation, storage and burial of remains", disregarding the reasoning stemmed from Islamic faith traditions.

2)The funeral director is prohibited from handling the body. Islamic rites, as described by the Imam Ammar Ammonette of the Islamic Center of Virginia (ICVA) at last month's board meeting, clearly indicated that there is a ritual washing of the body. It also involves covering the body with traditional shrouds after the washing.

3)There is an implication that the request by the Muslim community is also a way to bypass safe and competent care. This is highly disturbing as it is fueling disrespectful and seemingly discriminatory assumptions about the Islamic faith. Imam Ammar made no indication of the Islamic traditions or that the need to create a separate licensing was due to being against standards of care, safety and competence.

I support the full intent of Senator McPike's bill which sought to help provide a way for residents of Virginia from the Muslim community the ability to provide funeral services in accordance to their religious requirements, additionally I support any system that allows for choice, competition in the marketplace. Senator McPike's focus on assisting grieving families in SB1044 is appreciated and has impressed his constituents and those outside his district.

Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Anita Elcock

Henrico, Virginia 23227

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **senate district29** <district29@senate.virginia.gov>

Date: Mon, Aug 31, 2020 at 9:53 AM

Subject: Concerns regarding draft - SB1044 - Funeral Directors

To: David Brown <david.brown@dhp.virginia.gov>

Cc: Atif Qarni <atif.qarni@governor.virginia.gov>, Megan Healy <megan.healy@governor.virginia.gov>, Tillman Corie <corie.wolf@dhp.virginia.gov>

Dear Dr. Brown:

I have taken the opportunity to read through the draft regulations related to my SB1044 that I believe will be discussed at your RAP meeting on September 2nd. As always I appreciate the good work you all are doing and all the effort it takes to gain consensus. However, I am very concerned about the educational requirements as they are proposed in the draft as I believe if adopted, they would effectively make moot any other changes to the licensure process and gut the intent of the my legislation. The creation of an overly burdensome, non- relevant curriculum(ie, the American Board of Funeral Service Education curriculum requires embalming courses) that can possibly take years to be approved or implemented is exactly the outcome I wanted to avoid as it will be a large barrier that keeps quality Virginians out of the industry – an industry that I think we all agree is in need of some modest innovation to ensure a sustainable and vibrant workforce for the future. Let me be clear – reasonable and relevant educational requirements are vital as all families need to believe they are dealing with a competent and caring professional. However, if those requirements are unnecessary and keep good people from entering the profession, it is tantamount to restriction of trade if intended or not.

I look forward to reviewing the regulations once they are posted after the RAP meeting and having the opportunity to discuss them further with you at that time. Please let me know if I can be helpful in the meantime.

Jeremy McPike
State Senator
29th District