

APPROVED
BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS
MINUTES OF TASK FORCE ON DUAL LICENSURE

Monday, May 17, 2004
6603 W. Broad Street, 5th Floor
Room 1
Richmond, Virginia

Department of Health Professions

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors, Task Force on Dual Licensure was called to order at 10:17 a.m.

PRESIDING: Billie Watson-Hughes, Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Motley, VFDA
Bob Oman, VFDA
Blair Nelson, IFHV

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Murphy
Rev. Alane C. Miles
Fred Carter, VMA

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth Young, Executive Director
Aesha Brandy, Administrative Assistant
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Jack Kotvas, Assistant Attorney General

OTHER PRESENT: Joe Jenkins, Jr., Board Member

GUEST: Meredith Partridge, RSS
David Partridge, RSS

QUORUM: With 5 members present, a quorum was established.

ORDERING AGENDA: **OF** On a properly seconded motion by Mr. Jenkins, the Committee moved to accept the agenda.

INTRODUCTION BOARD AND STAFF **OF** Members of the Board, the Task Force Committee and DHP staff introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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REVIEW OF MINUTES Ms. Young provided minutes from the Task Force on Dual licensure meeting of August 1, 2002 and the Legislative/Regulatory Committee meeting of April 20, 2004 as background information for the committee.

CURRENT LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS Ms. Young reviewed the current licensure requirements for the State of Virginia.

DUAL LICENSURE LAWS OF OTHER STATES Ms. Young provided for regulations and laws for the states of North Carolina, Louisiana, Kansas, Arkansas, and North Dakota. These states have dual licenses.

PROS AND CONS Frederick Carter, VMA President, submitted comments on behalf of VMA which are attached. VMA stated a strong opposition to the proposal dual licensure.

Bob Oman spoke on behalf of the VFDA. He stated that VFDA agreed for the most part with Mr. Carter, however, disagreed with the racial comments. He also disagrees that there is a shortage of Funeral Directors. He further stated that currently, it is difficult to justify having a full service licensee to only work casket stores or in crematories.

Blair Nelson, IFHV, stated that the IFHV perspective on the issue of dual licensure varies much like that of VFDA. He asked that the Task Force examine a less drastic measure than dual licensure, such as a limited licensee with a full license behind it. However, there needs to be some type of restructuring of the current licensure system. He believes that there is a shortage and the industry is having consumers pay for services that they are not using especially with the increase in cremations. He asked the question of whether the industry is restricting entry into the profession and ignoring consumer rights and needs.

Billie Watson Hughes discussed changes in the national examination and its impact on the numbers entering the profession. There are an increased number of females with a strong reluctance by the industry to hire them.

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All Task Force members believed that the issue of a single license will be difficult to persuade to licensees, but the members believed that the following are the major issues:

- Due to increasing cremations, the dual license is a major step in responding to the public need
- Changing times and needs of consumer dictate that the industry become proactive instead of reactive
- Dual licensure will allow profession to become more competitive with a changing market.

Sears (the retailer) is selling funeral services in Canada and is planning to enter the United States market this year.

FUNERAL SERVICE CURRICULUM

Program curriculums from John Tyler Community College and Norfolk State University were provided as background information for the committee.

DRAFT LEGISLATION

A copy of the 2005 Draft Legislation was provided to the committee for general information.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD

Ms. Motley recommended having a study group. The Task Force stated that they recommend the following to the Board:

- Further study of issue needed
- Executive Director provide general information about the issue at the conventions this year
- Meet in July 2004

At the next meeting, Ms. Motley will provide a copy of the manpower shortage survey results by NFDA and Ms. Young will provide the same survey results from the International Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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Billie Watson-Hughes, Chair

Elizabeth Young, Executive Director

Date

Date