
SENATE BILL 6261

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senators Padden, Pedersen, and Miloscia

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to human remains; amending RCW 68.50.050 and
2 68.50.020; and prescribing penalties.

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

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

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

1 ~~days or by both fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the~~
2 ~~court)).~~

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

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

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