

January 22, 2004

To: Health and Human Services Committee

From: Pam Scott, Executive Director  
Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

Re: Bill Introduction  
Amendment to K.S.A. 65-1762

On behalf of the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, I would like to request introduction of legislation that would amend K.S.A. 65-1762 to provide that a crematory operator in charge of a licensed crematory must hold a Kansas funeral directors or embalmers license if the crematory has a holding facility. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached.

Currently Kansas law does not require individual licensure of a crematory operator in charge of a licensed crematory. The KFDDA believes an individual in charge of a licensed crematory with a holding facility should hold a Kansas funeral directors or embalmers license.

A holding facility is defined in K.S.A. 65-1760(1) as “an area within or adjacent to a licensed crematory designated for the retention of dead human bodies prior to the act of cremation that shall: 1) Comply with any applicable public health statute, regulation or ordinance; 2) preserve the dignity of the dead human body; 3) recognize the integrity, health and safety of the crematory’s personnel operating the crematory; and 4) be secure from access by anyone other than licensed personnel.”

The KFDDA believes that if a dead human body is to be held in a crematory for a period of time, the person operating the crematory should be licensed. Funeral directors and embalmers are licensed by the State Board of Mortuary Arts. A licensed funeral service professional can best assure that the dignity of the dead human body is protected and that the health and safety of the public is protected.

To our knowledge, there currently there are no crematories with holding facilities operating in Kansas that are not under the supervision of a licensed funeral director or embalmer.

We see no fiscal impact resulting from this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 232-7789.

