

HB 1457-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2919
09/08

HOUSE BILL ***1457-FN***

AN ACT relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.

SPONSORS: Rep. LaMontagne, Straf. 17; Rep. Darby, Hills. 11; Rep. Knab, Rock. 12; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction of human remains and provides for regulation of the practice.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Short Title. This act may be known as and cited to as the "Live Free and Die Free Act."

2 2 Embalmers and Funeral Directors; Board Duty. Amend RSA 325:8-a to read as follows:

3 325:8-a Board Duty; Crematory Licensing; **Natural Organic Reduction Facility Licensing.**

4 The board shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of RSA 325-A relative to the
5 cremation of human remains, **and RSA 325-B, relative to natural organic reduction of human**
6 **remains.**

7 3 New Chapter; Natural Organic Reduction of Human Remains. Amend RSA by inserting after
8 chapter 325-A the following new chapter:

9 CHAPTER 325-B

10 NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION OF HUMAN REMAINS

11 325-B:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

12 I. "Natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated conversion of human
13 remains to soil, hereinafter referred to as NOR.

14 II. "Board" means the state board of registration of funeral directors and embalmers
15 established under RSA 325:2.

16 III. "Disposition container" means a container in which human remains are placed and
17 means a container made of wood, wicker, grass, cardboard, or other biodegradable container, or a
18 shroud made of cotton, linen, wool, hemp or other woven plant material.

19 IV. "Casket" means a rigid container made of wood, metal, or other similar material,
20 ornamented and lined with fabric, which is designed for the encasement of human remains.

21 V. "Alternative container" means a container, other than a casket, designed for encasement
22 and transfer of human remains.

23 VI. "Reduced remains" means the results of performing NOR on a deceased person.

24 VII. "Natural organic reduction chamber" means the enclosed space within which NOR will
25 take place.

26 VIII. "Natural organic reduction facility" means a building or structure or a room or other
27 space in a building or structure or real property where NOR is facilitated and occurs.

28 IX. "Natural organic reduction authority" means the legal entity subject to licensure by the
29 board to maintain and operate a NOR facility and perform NOR.

30 X. "Natural organic reduction operator" means a person who is responsible for the operation
31 of a natural organic reduction.

1 XI. "Authorizing agent" means a person vested with the right to control the disposition of
2 human remains pursuant to RSA 290.

3 XII. "NOR delivery receipt form" means a form provided by a funeral establishment to a
4 NOR facility to document the receipt of human remains by such authority for the purpose of NOR.

5 XIII. "Reduced Remains receipt form" means a form provided by a reduction facility to an
6 authorizing agent or his or her representative that identifies the reduced remains, and the person
7 authorized to receive some or all of the reduced remains.

8 XIV. "Natural organic reduction certificate" is a document provided by the NOR certifying
9 NOR has been completed on a specified deceased person.

10 XV. "Funeral director" means funeral director as defined in RSA 325.

11 XVI. "Holding facility" means the area of a NOR facility designated for the retention of
12 human remains prior to NOR and includes a refrigerated facility.

13 XVII. "Human remains" means the body of a deceased person, or a human body part, in any
14 stage of decomposition and includes limbs or other portions of the anatomy that are removed from a
15 person or human remains for medical purposes during treatment, surgery, biopsy, autopsy, or
16 medical research.

17 XVIII. "Temporary container" means a receptacle made of cardboard, plastic, or other
18 similar material in which reduced remains are placed prior to scattering.

19 325-B:2 Natural Organic Reduction Facility; License Required. A NOR facility shall not be
20 established, operated, or maintained in this state except by a natural organic reduction authority
21 licensed by the board under RSA 325. The board shall issue a license to a NOR authority that
22 satisfies the requirements for licensure under the chapter. Human remains shall not be naturally
23 organically reduced in this state except at a NOR facility operated by a NOR authority licensed
24 under this chapter.

25 325-B:3 Building and Location Requirements.

26 I. A NOR facility shall conform to all building codes and environmental regulations.

27 II. A NOR facility may be constructed at any location consistent with applicable zoning and
28 environmental regulations.

29 325-B:4 License; Application; Requirements. An applicant for an initial or renewal license as a
30 NOR authority shall file a written application with the board and shall set forth the full name and
31 address of the applicant, the address and location of the NOR facility, name of the NOR operator, the
32 name and address of the owner of the facility, and additional information as required by the board,
33 including affirmative evidence of the applicant's ability to comply with rules adopted under this
34 chapter. The application shall include the applicant's social security number if the applicant is an
35 individual. The social security number shall not be public record and shall only be used for
36 administrative purposes.

1 325-B:5 License; Expiration. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, NOR licenses issued
2 pursuant to this chapter shall expire 5 years after the date of issuance. Licenses shall be issued
3 only for the NOR authority named in the application and shall not be transferable or assignable.

4 325-B:6 Change in Location, Ownership, or Name.

5 I. A NOR authority desiring to relocate a NOR facility shall file a written application with
6 the board at least 30 days prior to the designated date of such relocation. The application shall be
7 accompanied by a fee as determined in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

8 II. A NOR authority desiring to change ownership of a NOR facility shall file a written
9 application with the board at least 30 days prior to the designated date of such change. The
10 application shall be accompanied by a fee as determined in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

11 III. A NOR authority desiring to change its name shall file a written application with the
12 board at least 30 days prior to such change. The application shall be accompanied by a fee as
13 determined in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

14 325-B:7 Licensure; Fees.

15 I. The application for an initial or renewal license as a NOR authority shall include a fee
16 determined in rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

17 II. If the license application is denied, the license fee shall be returned to the applicant,
18 except that the board may retain an administrative fee and may retain the entire license fee if an
19 inspection has been completed prior to such denial.

20 III. The office of professional licensure and certification shall collect a fee for reinstatement
21 of a license that has lapsed or has been suspended; for a duplicate original license; and for a certified
22 statement that a natural organic reduction authority is licensed in this state.

23 IV. All fees collected by the office of professional licensure and certification under this
24 chapter shall be deposited pursuant to RSA 310:5.

25 325-B:8 Inspection; Board; Duties; Authority for Appointments.

26 I. The board, through the office of professional licensure and certification, shall at least once
27 every 3 years inspect or provide for the inspection of any NOR facility operated by a NOR authority
28 licensed under this chapter in such manner and at such times as provided in rules adopted by the
29 board.

30 II. The board shall issue an inspection report and provide a copy of the report to the NOR
31 authority within 10 working days after the completion of an inspection. The board shall review any
32 findings of noncompliance contained in such report within 20 working days after such inspection.

33 III. If the board determines, after such review, that the evidence supports a finding of
34 noncompliance by a NOR authority with any applicable provisions of this chapter or rules adopted
35 under this chapter, the board may send a letter to the NOR authority requesting a statement of
36 compliance. The letter shall include a description of each alleged violation, a request that the NOR
37 authority submit a statement of compliance within 10 working days, and a notice that the board may

1 take further action if the statement of compliance is not submitted. The statement of compliance
2 shall indicate any actions by the NOR authority which have been or will be taken and the period of
3 time estimated to be necessary to correct each alleged violation. If the NOR authority fails to
4 submit such statement of compliance or fails to make a good faith effort to correct the alleged
5 violations, the board may take further action as provided in this chapter.

6 325-B:9 Deny or Refuse to Renew License; Grounds. The board may deny or refuse to renew a
7 license under this chapter or take disciplinary action against a NOR authority licensed under this
8 chapter on any of the following grounds:

- 9 I. Violation of this chapter or rules adopted and pursuant to this chapter;
10 II. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude;
11 III. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony under state law, federal law, or the law of
12 another jurisdiction which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or
13 felony and which has a rational connection with the fitness or capacity of the NOR authority to
14 operate a crematory;
15 IV. Conviction of a violation pursuant to RSA 325-A:15;
16 V. Obtaining a license as a NOR authority by false representation or fraud;
17 VI. Misrepresentation or fraud in the operation of a NOR facility; or
18 VII. Failure to allow access by an agent or employee of the board to a NOR facility operated
19 by the NOR authority for the purposes of inspection, investigation, or other information collection
20 activities necessary to carry out the duties of the board.

21 325-B:10 License Reinstatement or Re-licensure.

22 I. If the license of a NOR authority has lapsed for nonpayment of fees, such license shall be
23 eligible for reinstatement at any time upon application to the board and payment of the applicable
24 fee.

25 II. If the license of a NOR authority has been placed on probation, such license shall be
26 eligible for reinstatement at the end of the period of probation upon successful completion of an
27 inspection if the board determines an inspection is warranted.

28 III. If the license of a NOR authority has been suspended, such license shall be eligible for
29 reinstatement at the end of the period of suspension upon successful completion of an inspection and
30 payment of the applicable fee.

31 IV. If the license of a NOR facility has been suspended, such license may be reinstated by
32 the board prior to the completion of the term of suspension upon petition by the licensee. After
33 reviewing such petition and any material submitted by the licensee with such petition, the board
34 may order an inspection or investigation of the licensee. Based on such review and such inspection
35 or investigation, if any, the board shall grant full reinstatement of the license, modify the
36 suspension, or deny the petition for reinstatement. The board's decision shall become final 30 days

1 after mailing the decision to the licensee unless the licensee requests a hearing within such period.
2 Any requested hearing shall be held according to rules of the board.

3 V. If the license of a NOR authority has been revoked, such NOR authority shall not be
4 eligible for re-licensure until 5 years after the date of such revocation. A reapplication for an initial
5 license may be made by the NOR authority at the end of such 5-year period.

6 325-B:11 Acts Prohibited; Penalty.

7 I. Maintaining or operating a NOR facility in violation of this chapter or any rules of the
8 board is a public nuisance and may be abated as a nuisance as provided by law.

9 II. It shall be a class B felony to establish, operate, or maintain a NOR facility subject to
10 this chapter without being licensed as a NOR authority under this chapter, to hold oneself out to the
11 public as a NOR authority without being licensed, or to perform natural organic reduction without a
12 NOR authorization form signed by the authorizing agent and a completed permit for transit or NOR
13 as provided by the board or a NOR permit.

14 III. Signing a NOR authorization form with actual knowledge that the form contains false,
15 incorrect, or misleading information is a class B felony.

16 IV. A violation of any other provision of this chapter is a misdemeanor.

17 325-B:12 Injunctions. The board may maintain an action in the name of the state for an
18 injunction against any person for establishing, operating, or maintaining a NOR facility without first
19 obtaining a license as a NOR authority under this chapter. In charging any defendant in a
20 complaint in such action, it shall be sufficient to charge that such defendant did, upon a certain day
21 and in a certain county, establish, operate, or maintain a NOR facility without obtaining a license as
22 a NOR authority under this chapter, without alleging any further or more particular facts
23 concerning the same.

24 325-B:13 Right to Authorize Natural Organic Reduction. The right to authorize the NOR of
25 human remains and the final disposition of the reduced remains, except in the case of a minor and
26 unless other directions have been given by the decedent in the form of a testamentary disposition or
27 a pre-need contract, vests pursuant to RSA 290.

28 325-B:14 Medical Examiner's Certificate.

29 I. The body of a deceased person shall not be enclosed in a NOR chamber within 48 hours
30 after death. If the death occurred within the state, the NOR process should not begin until the NOR
31 authority has received the certificate of burial permit required by law before burial, and a certificate
32 from a medical examiner that he or she has viewed the body and made personal inquiry into the
33 cause and manner of death, and is of the opinion that no further examination or judicial inquiry
34 concerning the same is necessary. If the death occurred within the state but the body is being
35 transferred out of state for NOR, the transfer shall not occur until the medical examiner has
36 conducted such a view and inquiry and has issued a certificate. If the death occurs without the

1 state, the reception and NOR of the body of a deceased person shall be governed by rules adopted by
2 the board after consultation with the chief medical examiner.

3 II. The NOR authority shall forward a copy of the NOR certificate, if requested, to the office
4 of the chief medical examiner, accompanied by a \$60 fee. The fee shall be deposited in the medico-
5 legal investigative fund established pursuant to RSA 611-B:28.

6 325-B:15 Natural Organic Reduction Authority.

7 I. A NOR authority upon receiving human remains shall sign a delivery receipt form and
8 shall hold the human remains, prior to NOR, as provided in this section. The form shall include the
9 name of the deceased, the time and date of delivery of such remains, and the signatures of the
10 operator of the NOR facility or his or her representative and the funeral director or his or her
11 representative, or the next-of-kin or designated agent as provided in RSA 290.

12 II. If the NOR authority is unable to begin the NOR process immediately upon taking
13 receipt thereof, the NOR authority shall place the remains in a holding facility. A holding facility
14 shall be designed and constructed to comply with all applicable public health laws, provide for the
15 health and safety of persons employed at such facility, and prevent any unauthorized access to such
16 facility.

17 III. If the NOR operator is unable to begin the NOR process within 24 hours from the time
18 of receipt of body, the human remains must be placed within a refrigerated facility in accordance
19 with the laws of this state.

20 IV. A NOR authority may refuse to accept for holding a casket or alternative container from
21 which there is any evidence of leakage of body fluids from the remains in the casket or alternative
22 container.

23 V. A NOR authority may refuse to accept for holding or refuse to process a body which has
24 been embalmed.

25 325-B:16 Natural Organic Reduction Operation; Limitations.

26 I. The NOR authority may restrict access to a NOR facility while any human remains are in
27 the holding facility awaiting placement in a NOR chamber.

28 II. The human remains of more than one person shall not simultaneously undergo NOR
29 within the same NOR chamber unless the NOR authority has received specific written authorization
30 from the authorizing agent for the human remains to be so reduced.

31 325-B:17 Natural Organic Reduction Authority; Requirements.

32 I. A NOR authority shall not accept human remains for NOR without a proper label placed
33 on the exterior of the casket or alternative container indicating the name of the deceased and the
34 name and location of the funeral establishment, or the name of the next-of-kin or designated agent
35 as provided in RSA 290.

36 II. If human remains are delivered to a NOR facility in a casket or alternative container that
37 cannot be placed in the NOR chamber, the NOR operator shall remove the body from the casket or

1 incompatible container. The casket or incompatible container shall be disposed of and an
2 appropriate disposition container provided for transfer of human remains to the NOR chamber.

3 325-B:18 Natural Organic Reduction Authorization Form.

4 I. A NOR authority shall not place human remains in a NOR chamber until it has received
5 a NOR authorization form as provided in paragraph II, a completed and executed permit for transit
6 or NOR as provided by the board or the appropriate permit from the state from which the human
7 remains were delivered, indicating that the human remains are to be prepared for NOR, and a
8 delivery receipt form.

9 II. A NOR authorization form shall be signed by the authorizing agent and shall include,
10 but not be limited to, the following information:

11 (a) The name of the deceased;

12 (b) Date and place of death;

13 (c) The identity of the funeral director involved in the preparation of the human
14 remains for NOR, if any;

15 (d) The name of the authorizing agent and the relationship between the authorizing
16 agent and the deceased;

17 (e) Authorization by the authorizing agent for the NOR authority to process the remains
18 in NOR;

19 (f) A representation that the authorizing agent is aware of no objection to the human
20 remains being naturally, organically reduced by any person who has a right to control the disposition
21 of the human remains;

22 (g) A representation that the human remains do not contain any material, implants, or
23 conditions that may be potentially hazardous to equipment or persons operating the NOR facility;

24 (h) The name of the person authorized to claim the part or all of the reduced remains
25 from the NOR authority; and

26 (i) The intended disposition of the reduced remains.

27 III. A NOR authority shall retain, for at least 7 years after the NOR, in printed or electronic
28 format with suitable backup, copies of the NOR authorization form, permit for transit or NOR as
29 provided by the permit, NOR remains receipt form, delivery receipt form, and any other records
30 required under this chapter.

31 325-B:19 Signature.

32 I. Any person signing a NOR authorization form shall be deemed to warrant the
33 truthfulness of any facts set forth on such form, including the identity of the deceased whose
34 remains are sought to be naturally organically reduced and the authority of the person to authorize
35 such NOR. Any person signing a NOR authorization form is personally liable for all damages
36 resulting from false, incorrect, or misleading information contained on such form.

1 II. A NOR authority may prepare human remains for NOR upon the receipt of a NOR
2 authorization form signed by an authorizing agent and a completed and executed permit for transit
3 for NOR or NOR permit as required by law.

4 325-B:20 Removal of Foreign Objects.

5 I. No human remains shall be placed in an NOR chamber with the knowledge that the
6 human remains contain jewelry or other valuables unless authorized by the authorizing agent. The
7 authorizing agent shall take all necessary steps to ensure that any jewelry or other valuables are
8 removed prior to NOR. If the authorizing agent informs the funeral director and the NOR authority
9 on the NOR authorization form of the presence of jewelry or other valuables on the human remains,
10 the funeral director shall ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to remove the jewelry or
11 other valuables before delivering the human remains to the NOR facility. A funeral director who
12 knowingly fails to ensure the removal of the jewelry or other valuables prior to delivery and who
13 knowingly delivers such human remains shall be liable for any damages resulting from such failure.
14 If human remains with jewelry or other valuables are in the custody of a NOR authority, such
15 authority shall provide for the removal of such jewelry or other valuables by a licensed funeral
16 director and embalmer or his or her agent.

17 II. Foreign objects within the human remains, such as artificial limbs and implants will be
18 removed at late stages of the NOR process.

19 325-B:21 Disputes.

20 I. If a NOR authority or funeral establishment is aware of any dispute concerning the NOR
21 of human remains, or has a reasonable basis to believe that such a dispute exists or to question any
22 of the representations made by the authorizing agent with respect to such remains, until the NOR
23 authority receives a court order that a dispute with respect to such remains has been settled, the
24 NOR authority or funeral establishment may refuse to accept such human remains for NOR or to
25 perform a NOR of such remains.

26 II. If a NOR authority or funeral establishment is aware of any dispute concerning the
27 release or disposition of reduced remains, the NOR authority or funeral establishment may refuse to
28 release reduced remains until the dispute has been resolved or the NOR authority or funeral
29 establishment has been provided with a court order authorizing the release or disposition of the
30 reduced remains.

31 325-B:22 Reduced Remains; How Treated.

32 I. Insofar as is possible, upon completion of the NOR, all of the recoverable reduced remains
33 of the NOR shall be removed from the NOR chamber and any foreign matter or anything other than
34 bone fragments shall be removed from such residue and shall be disposed of by the NOR authority.
35 The remaining bone fragments shall be processed by pulverization so as to reduce the fragments to
36 unidentifiable particles and returned to the reduced remains. This paragraph shall not apply when
37 the commingling of human remains during NOR is otherwise authorized by law. The presence of

1 incidental and unavoidable residue in the NOR chamber from a prior NOR is not a violation of this
2 paragraph.

3 II. Some or all of the reduced remains with proper identification shall be placed in a
4 temporary container selected or provided by the authorizing agent or their representative. If the
5 authorizing agent chooses, some or all of the reduced remains may be stored at the facility to be later
6 scattered at a location selected by the NOR authority. The authorizing agent shall consent to the
7 reduced remains being scattered and the NOR authority shall disclose how and where the reduced
8 remains will be placed. The authorizing agent shall consent to the reduced remains being
9 intermixed with other reduced remains.

10 III. If any reduced remains is to be shipped, the temporary container shall be packed
11 securely in a suitable shipping container that complies with the requirements of the shipper. Unless
12 otherwise directed in writing by the authorizing agent, reduced remains shall be shipped only by a
13 method which includes an internal tracking system, and which provides a receipt signed by the
14 person accepting delivery of it.

15 IV. Some or all of the reduced remains shall be delivered or released by the NOR authority
16 to the representative specified by the authorizing agent on the NOR authorization form. The owner
17 of the NOR authority or his or her representative and the party receiving the reduced remains shall
18 sign a NOR receipt form. The form shall include the name of the deceased, the date, time, and place
19 of receipt of the reduced remains, and the signatures of the NOR authority or his or her
20 representative and the authorizing agent or his or her representative. If the reduced remains are
21 shipped, a form used by the shipper may be used in lieu of a completed reduced remains receipt form
22 if the shipper's form contains the information required for a reduced remains receipt form. Both the
23 party delivering the reduced remains and the party receiving it shall retain a copy of the reduced
24 remains receipt form or shipper's form. Upon delivery, the reduced remains may be further
25 transported within this state in any manner without a permit.

26 325-B:23 Final Disposition.

27 I. For purposes of this chapter, the delivery of the reduced remains to the authorizing agent
28 or his or her representative shall constitute final disposition. The authorizing agent may choose to
29 receive a portion of reduced remains, with the remainder having a disposition as disclosed in
30 paragraph V. If, after a period of 60 days after the date the NOR was completed, the authorizing
31 agent or his or her representative has not directed or otherwise arranged for the final disposition of
32 the reduced remains or claimed it for final disposition as provided in this section, the NOR authority
33 may dispose of the reduced remains after making a reasonable attempt to contact the authorizing
34 agent or his or her representative. This method of disposition may be used by any NOR authority or
35 funeral establishment to dispose of all reduced remains in the possession of a NOR authority or
36 funeral establishment on or after the effective date of this chapter.

1 II. The authorizing agent may dispose or scatter reduced remains without permit at their
2 own property or on private property, with permission. The location of the disposition or scattering of
3 reduced remains shall not constitute a cemetery.

4 III. The NOR authority may dispose or scatter reduced remains that has been released to
5 them for final disposition on public or private land with permission or contractual arrangement.

6 IV. No reduced remains can be sold or used for human food production.

7 V. The NOR authority shall disclose, on the NOR authorization form, the method and
8 location for final disposition of unclaimed reduced remains and any unreceived portions of reduced
9 remains.

10 325-B:24 Rulemaking. The board shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to:

11 I. Requirements for licensure of NOR authorities.

12 II. Conditions under which human remains of persons whose death was caused by a disease
13 declared by the board to be infectious, contagious, communicable, or dangerous to the public health
14 may be transported in this state to a NOR facility for the purpose of NOR. The board shall consult
15 with the chief medical examiner on rules adopted under this paragraph.

16 III. Minimum sanitation standards for all NOR facilities.

17 IV. Inspection procedures for NOR facilities.

18 V. Reduced remains requirements.

19 325-B:25 Natural Organic Reduction Authority; Bylaws. An NOR authority may enact
20 reasonable bylaws not inconsistent with this chapter for the management and operation of a NOR
21 facility operated by such authority. Nothing in this section shall prevent a NOR authority from
22 enacting bylaws which contain more stringent requirements than those provided in this chapter.

23 325-B:26 Chapter Construed. This chapter shall be construed and interpreted as a
24 comprehensive natural organic reduction law, and the provisions of this chapter shall take
25 precedence over any existing laws or rules that govern human remains that do not specifically
26 address NOR.

27 4 Vital Records Administration; Burial Permit Procedures. Amend RSA 5-C:68 to read as
28 follows:

29 5-C:68 Burial Permit Procedures. When a body is to be stored, the burial permit shall be
30 completed by the cemetery sexton where the body is entombed and sent to the clerk of the town or
31 city where the storage vault is located. When the body is to be moved from entombment for final
32 disposition, the funeral director, next of kin, or designated agent shall obtain the permit from the
33 clerk of the town or city to use as the permit for final disposition. When the body is to be cremated,
34 at least 48 hours shall elapse before cremation can take place in accordance with RSA 325-A and a
35 separate cremation certificate shall be obtained from the medical examiner and submitted to the
36 crematory with the burial permit pursuant to RSA 325-A. ***When the body is to be disposed by***
37 ***natural organic reduction (NOR), at least 48 hours shall elapse before NOR can take place***

1 *in accordance with RSA 325-B and a separate certificate shall be obtained from the*
2 *medical examiner and submitted to the NOR facility with the burial permit pursuant to*
3 *RSA 325-B.* No separate permit shall be required when transporting a body by common carrier or
4 remains to his or her final disposition.

5 5 Assistant Deputy Medical Examiner Accounts. Amend RSA 611-B:27, I to read as follows:

6 I. Assistant deputy medical examiners shall be paid at the following rates: telephone
7 consultations-\$25; death investigations involving an external examination of the body-\$140, plus
8 mileage at the state rate; pre-cremation examinations conducted pursuant to RSA 325-A:18-\$50;
9 *pre-natural organic reduction examinations conducted pursuant to RSA 325-B:14-\$60.*

10 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**HB 1457-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Office of Professional Licensure and Certification Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)	Indeterminable Increase (\$10,000 to \$100,000)
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Office of Professional Licensure and Certification Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes the licensing and regulation under the board of registration of funeral directors and embalmers for the natural organic reduction of human remains.

The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) states this legislation would increase licensing, inspections, enforcement, and hearings before the board while also creating some processes that are inconsistent with the practices established under RSA 310. While the OPLC already has staff that handles licensing, inspections, enforcement, hearings, and rulemaking there is no way to determine how much the bill will increase expenditures based on those needs thus the financial impact is uncertain.

The OPLC anticipates an increase in revenue through licensing, inspection fees, and administrative fines which should offset some of the costs and have overall fiscal impact between \$10,000 to \$100,000.

It is assumed the fiscal impact will not occur until FY 2027.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Office of Professional Licensure and Certification

[As this bill is similar to SB 53, 2025 Session, we used the same information the agency provided at that time to prepare the above fiscal note]