

SB 53-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-1045  
09/08

SENATE BILL        **53-FN**

AN ACT            relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:      Judiciary

---

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Five*

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

4 CHAPTER 325-B

5 NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION OF HUMAN REMAINS

6 325-B:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

7 I. "Alternative container" means a container in which remains are placed prior to NOR  
8 (natural organic reduction).

9 II. "Authorizing agent" means a person vested with the right to control the disposition of  
10 human remains pursuant to RSA 290.

11 III. "Board" means the state board of registration of funeral directors and embalmers  
12 established under RSA 325:2.

13 IV. "Disposition container" means a container in which human remains are placed and  
14 means a container made of wood, wicker, grass, cardboard, or other bio-degradable container, or  
15 shroud made of cotton, linen, wool, hemp, or other woven plant material.

16 V. "Funeral director" means funeral director as defined in RSA 325.

17 VI. "Holding facility" means the area of a NOR facility designated for the retention of  
18 human remains prior to NOR and includes a refrigerated facility.

19 VII. "Human remains" means the body of a deceased person, or a human body part, in any  
20 stage of decomposition and includes limbs or other portions of the anatomy that are removed from a  
21 person or human remains for medical purposes during treatment, surgery, biopsy, autopsy, or  
22 medical research.

23 VIII. "Natural organic reduction" or "NOR" means the contained, accelerated conversion of  
24 human remains to soil.

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

27 X. "Natural organic reduction certificate" is a document provided by the NOR authority  
28 certifying NOR has been completed on a specified deceased person.

29 XI. "Natural organic reduction chamber" means the enclosed stainless steel space within  
30 which NOR will take place.

**SB 53-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

**- Page 2 -**

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

4 XIII. "Natural organic reduction facility" means a building or structure or a room or other  
5 space in a building or structure or real property where NOR is facilitated and occurs.

6 XIV. "Natural organic reduction operator" means a person who is responsible for the  
7 operation of a natural organic reduction.

8 XV. "Natural organic reduction soil receipt form" means a form provided by a reduction  
9 facility to an authorizing agent or his or her representative that identifies the NOR soil, and the  
10 person authorized to receive some or all of the soil.

11 XVI. "Reduced remains" means the results of performing NOR on a deceased person.

12 XVII. "Temporary container" means a receptacle made of cardboard, plastic, or other similar  
13 material in which NOR soils are placed.

14 325-B:2 Natural Organic Reduction Facility; License Required. A NOR facility shall not be  
15 established, operated, or maintained in this state except by a natural organic reduction authority  
16 licensed by the board under RSA 325. The board shall issue a license to a NOR authority that  
17 satisfies the requirements for licensure under the chapter. Human remains shall not be naturally  
18 organically reduced in this state except at a NOR facility operated by a NOR authority licensed  
19 under this chapter.

20 325-B:3 Building and Location Requirements.

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

22 II. A NOR facility may be constructed at any location, including within a funeral home or a  
23 crematorium, consistent with applicable zoning and environmental regulations.

24 325-B:4 License; Application; Requirements. An applicant for an initial or renewal license as a  
25 NOR authority shall file a written application with the board and shall set forth the full name and  
26 address of the applicant, the address and location of the NOR facility, name of the NOR operator, the  
27 name and address of the owner of the facility, and additional information as required by the board,  
28 including affirmative evidence of the applicant's ability to comply with rules adopted under this  
29 chapter. The application shall include the applicant's social security number if the applicant is an  
30 individual. The social security number shall not be public record and shall only be used for  
31 administrative purposes.

32 325-B:5 License; Expiration. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, NOR licenses issued  
33 pursuant to this chapter shall expire 5 years after the date of issuance. Licenses shall be issued  
34 only for the NOR authority named in the application and shall not be transferable or assignable.

35 325-B:6 Change in Location, Ownership, or Name.

**SB 53-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

**- Page 3 -**

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

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

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

10 325-B:7 Licensure; Fees.

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

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

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

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

21 325-B:8 Inspection; Board; Duties; Authority for Appointments.

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

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

29 III. If the board determines, after such review, that the evidence supports a finding of  
30 noncompliance by a NOR authority with any applicable provisions of this chapter or rules adopted  
31 under this chapter, the board may send a letter to the NOR authority requesting a statement of  
32 compliance. The letter shall include a description of each alleged violation, a request that the NOR  
33 authority submit a statement of compliance within 10 working days, and a notice that the board may  
34 take further action if the statement of compliance is not submitted. The statement of compliance  
35 shall indicate any actions by the NOR authority which have been or will be taken and the period of  
36 time estimated to be necessary to correct each alleged violation. If the NOR authority fails to

1 submit such statement of compliance or fails to make a good faith effort to correct the alleged  
2 violations, the board may take further action as provided in this chapter.

3 325-B:9 Deny or Refuse to Renew License; Grounds. The board may deny or refuse to renew a  
4 license under this chapter or take disciplinary action against a NOR authority licensed under this  
5 chapter on any of the following grounds:

6 I. Violation of this chapter or rules adopted and pursuant to this chapter;

7 II. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude;

8 III. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony under state law, federal law, or the law of  
9 another jurisdiction which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a misdemeanor or  
10 felony and which has a rational connection with the fitness or capacity of the NOR authority to  
11 operate a crematory;

12 IV. Conviction of a violation pursuant to RSA 325-A:15;

13 V. Obtaining a license as a NOR authority by false representation or fraud;

14 VI. Misrepresentation or fraud in the operation of a NOR facility; or

15 VII. Failure to allow access by an agent or employee of the board to a NOR facility operated  
16 by the NOR authority for the purposes of inspection, investigation, or other information collection  
17 activities necessary to carry out the duties of the board.

18 325-B:10 License Reinstatement or Re-licensure.

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

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

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

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

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

4 325-B:11 Acts Prohibited; Penalty.

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

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

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

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

15 325-B:12 Injunctions. The board may maintain an action in the name of the state for an  
16 injunction against any person for establishing, operating, or maintaining a NOR facility without first  
17 obtaining a license as a NOR authority under this chapter. In charging any defendant in a  
18 complaint in such action, it shall be sufficient to charge that such defendant did, upon a certain day  
19 and in a certain county, establish, operate, or maintain a NOR facility without obtaining a license as  
20 a NOR authority under this chapter, without alleging any further or more particular facts  
21 concerning the same.

22 325-B:13 Right to Authorize Natural Organic Reduction. The right to authorize the NOR of  
23 human remains and the final disposition of the NOR soil, except in the case of a minor and unless  
24 other directions have been given by the decedent in the form of a testamentary disposition or a pre-  
25 need contract, vests pursuant to RSA 290.

26 325-B:14 Medical Examiner's Certificate.

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

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

4           325-B:15 Natural Organic Reduction Authority.

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

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

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

18          IV. A NOR authority may refuse to accept for holding an alternative container from which  
19 there is any evidence of leakage of body fluids from the remains in the container.

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

22           325-B:16 Natural Organic Reduction Operation; Limitations.

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

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

28           325-B:17 Natural Organic Reduction Authority; Requirements.

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

33          II. The NOR authority may refuse to accept human remains for NOR if the human remains  
34 are delivered to the NOR authority in an alternative container not suitable for the NOR process. If  
35 human remains are delivered to a NOR facility in an additional casket or alternative container that  
36 cannot be placed in the NOR chamber, the NOR operator shall remove the body from the casket or

1 alternative container. The additional casket or alternative container shall be disposed of and an  
2 appropriate container shall be 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 NOR soil, the NOR authority or funeral establishment may refuse to release  
28 NOR soil until the dispute has been resolved or the NOR authority or funeral establishment has  
29 been provided with a court order authorizing the release or disposition of the NOR soil.

30 325-B:22 Natural Organic Reduction Soil; How Treated.

31 I. Insofar as is possible, upon completion of the NOR, all of the recoverable NOR soil of the  
32 NOR shall be removed from the NOR chamber and any foreign matter or anything other than bone  
33 fragments shall be removed from such residue and shall be disposed of by the NOR authority. The  
34 remaining bone fragments shall be processed by pulverization. This paragraph shall not apply  
35 when the commingling of human remains during NOR is otherwise authorized by law. The presence  
36 of incidental and unavoidable residue in the NOR chamber from a prior NOR is not a violation of  
37 this paragraph.

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

8           III. If any NOR soil is to be shipped, the container shall be packed securely in a suitable  
9 shipping container that complies with the requirements of the shipper. Unless otherwise directed in  
10 writing by the authorizing agent, NOR soil shall be shipped only by a method which includes an  
11 internal tracking system and which provides a receipt signed by the person accepting delivery of it.

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

22           325-B:23 Final Disposition.

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

33           II. The authorizing agent may dispose or scatter NOR soil without permit at their own  
34 property or on private or public property, with permission. The location of the disposition or  
35 scattering of NOR soil shall not constitute a cemetery.

36           III. The NOR authority may dispose or scatter NOR soil that has been released to them for  
37 final disposition on public or private land with permission or contractual arrangement.

**SB 53-FN - AS INTRODUCED**

**- Page 10 -**

1 IV. No NOR soil can be sold or used for human food production.

2 V. The NOR authority shall disclose, on the NOR authorization form, the method and  
3 location for final disposition of unclaimed NOR soil and any unreceived portions of NOR soil.

4 325-B:24 Rulemaking. The board shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to:

5 I. Requirements for licensure of NOR authorities.

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

10 III. Minimum sanitation standards for all NOR facilities.

11 IV. Inspection procedures for NOR facilities.

12 V. NOR soil testing requirements.

13 325-B:25 Natural Organic Reduction Authority; Bylaws. An NOR authority may enact  
14 reasonable bylaws not inconsistent with this chapter for the management and operation of a NOR  
15 facility operated by such authority. Nothing in this section shall prevent a NOR authority from  
16 enacting bylaws which contain more stringent requirements than those provided in this chapter.

17 325-B:26 Chapter Construed. This chapter shall be construed and interpreted as a  
18 comprehensive natural organic reduction law, and the provisions of this chapter shall take  
19 precedence over any existing laws or rules that govern human remains that do not specifically  
20 address NOR.

21 3 Vital Records Administration; Burial Permit Procedures. Amend RSA 5-C:68 to read as  
22 follows:

23 5-C:68 Burial Permit Procedures. When a body is to be stored, the burial permit shall be  
24 completed by the cemetery sexton where the body is entombed and sent to the clerk of the town or  
25 city where the storage vault is located. When the body is to be moved from entombment for final  
26 disposition, the funeral director, next of kin, or designated agent shall obtain the permit from the  
27 clerk of the town or city to use as the permit for final disposition. When the body is to be cremated,  
28 at least 48 hours shall elapse before cremation can take place in accordance with RSA 325-A and a  
29 separate cremation certificate shall be obtained from the medical examiner and submitted to the  
30 crematory with the burial permit pursuant to RSA 325-A. ***When the body is to be disposed by***  
31 ***natural organic reduction (NOR), at least 48 hours shall elapse before NOR can take place***  
32 ***in accordance with RSA 325-B and a separate certificate shall be obtained from the***  
33 ***medical examiner and submitted to the NOR facility with the burial permit pursuant to***  
34 ***RSA 325-B.*** No separate permit shall be required when transporting a body by common carrier or  
35 remains to his or her final disposition.

36 4 Embalmers and Funeral Directors; Board Duty. Amend RSA 325:8-a to read as follows:

1           325:8-a Board Duty; Crematory Licensing; ***Natural Organic Reduction Facility Licensing.***  
2 The board shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of RSA 325-A relative to the  
3 cremation of human remains, ***and RSA 325-B, relative to natural organic reduction of human***  
4 ***remains.***

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, 2025.

**SB 53-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.**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2025</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$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			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$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			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$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 Certification and Licensure (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 2026.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Office of Professional Certification and Licensure