

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 873

2 INTRODUCED BY L. SHELDON-GALLOWAY

3  
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DIGNIFIED TREATMENT OF AND  
5 DISPOSITION OF FETAL REMAINS FOLLOWING A SPONTANEOUS MISCARRIAGE OR ABORTION;  
6 PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION;  
7 AMENDING SECTIONS 37-19-101 AND 50-20-105, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

8  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10  
11 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Disposition of fetal remains -- duties of health care provider --

12 authority of parent or parents. (1) Immediately after a spontaneous miscarriage of a fetus that is 14 or more  
13 weeks gestational age or an abortion of a fetus that is 14 or more weeks gestational age, a health care provider  
14 shall:

15 (a) disclose to the parent or parents of the fetus, both orally and in writing, the right of the parent or  
16 parents to determine the final disposition of the fetal remains; and

17 (b) provide the parent or parents of the fetus with written information concerning but not limited to:

18 (i) the 10-business-day timeframe for determining the final disposition of fetal remains;

19 (ii) the available options for disposition of the fetal remains;

20 (iii) the right of the parent or parents to take the fetal remains and to determine the final disposition  
21 themselves; and

22 (iv) the health care provider's procedure for the final disposition of fetal remains in accordance with  
23 subsection (4)(b)(ii).

24 (2) (a) Within 10 business days after a spontaneous miscarriage or an abortion, the parent or  
25 parents of a miscarried or aborted fetus shall inform the health care provider of the parent's or parents' decision  
26 for the final disposition of the fetus after receiving the information required under subsection (1).

27 (b) The health care provider shall document the parent's or parents' decision in the medical record.

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1 (c) If the parent or parents are under 18 years of age and have not been emancipated by court  
2 order, the documentation must include consent of their parent or parents.

3 (3) If the parent or parents of the miscarried or aborted fetus choose a method of disposition other  
4 than the method of final disposition utilized by the health care provider under subsection (4)(b)(ii), the parent or  
5 parents are responsible for the costs related to the final disposition of the fetus.

6 (4) Following a spontaneous miscarriage or abortion, the health care provider shall:

7 (a) ensure that the fetal remains are retained until final disposition is arranged. If the remains are  
8 stored by the health care provider, the remains must be stored:

9 (i) in the same manner as human remains and not as pathological waste; and

10 (ii) at no cost to the parent or parents; and

11 (b) provide for the final disposition of the fetal remains by:

12 (i) releasing fetal remains to the parent or parents immediately on request; or

13 (ii) cremating or interring the fetal remains within 10 business days after the parent or parents

14 decline to take responsibility for the remains or after no determination has been made by the parent or parents  
15 within the initial 10-business-day timeframe described in subsection (2)(a).

16 (5) The department shall design and adopt in administrative rule a form that a health care provider  
17 shall complete for each spontaneous miscarriage or abortion. The form may not include information that could  
18 be used to personally identify the parent or parents of the fetus, but must document:

19 (a) the age of the parent or parents of the fetal remains;

20 (b) a designation of the final disposition of the fetal remains; and

21 (c) any other information required by the department, including but not limited to:

22 (i) the gestational age of the fetus;

23 (ii) the sex of the fetus;

24 (iii) whether the fetus was part of a multiple birth or multiple fetus pregnancy; and

25 (iv) any other information that could aid in developing an understanding of the causes of  
26 spontaneous miscarriage.

27 (6) For the purposes of this section, the following terms apply:

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- 1 (a) "Cremating" has the same meaning as "cremation" provided in 37-19-101.
- 2 (b) "Interring" has the same meaning as "interment" provided in 37-19-101.
- 3 (c) "Pathological waste" means human tissues, organs, and blood or body fluids in liquid or
- 4 semiliquid form that are removed from a person for medical purposes. The term does not include amputations
- 5 or fetal remains.
- 6 (d) "Spontaneous miscarriage" means the natural or accidental termination of a pregnancy and the
- 7 expulsion of the fetus, typically caused by genetic defects in the fetus or physical abnormalities in the pregnant
- 8 woman.

9  
10 **Section 2.** Section 37-19-101, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"37-19-101. Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the following

12 definitions apply:

- 13 (1) "Arrangements" includes:
  - 14 (a) planning the details of funeral service, including time of service, type of service, and, if
  - 15 requested, acquiring the services of clergy;
  - 16 (b) obtaining the necessary information for filing death certificates;
  - 17 (c) comparing or discussing prices, including merchandise prices and financial arrangements; and
  - 18 (d) providing for onsite direction and coordination of participants and onsite direction, coordination,
  - 19 and facilitation at funeral, graveside, or memorial services or rites.
- 20 (2) "At-need arrangements" means arrangements made by an authorized person on behalf of a
- 21 deceased.
- 22 (3) "Authorizing agent" means a person legally entitled to order the final disposition of human
- 23 remains, including burial, cremation, entombment, donation to medical science, or other means. The order of
- 24 preference for an authorizing agent is subject to the priority of rights of disposition established in 37-19-904.
- 25 (4) "Board" means the board of funeral service provided for in 2-15-1743.
- 26 (5) "Branch establishment" means a separate facility that may or may not have a suitable visitation
- 27 room or preparation room and that is owned by, a subsidiary of, or otherwise financially connected to or

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1 controlled by a licensed mortuary.

2 (6) "Cemetery" means any land or structure in this state dedicated to and used or intended to be  
3 used for interment of cremated remains or human remains. It may be any one or a combination of a burial park  
4 for earth interments, a mausoleum for crypt or niche interments, or a columbarium.

5 (7) "Cemetery company" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or association that:

6 (a) owns or controls cemetery lands or property and conducts the business of a cemetery; or

7 (b) applies to the board to own or control cemetery lands or property and conduct the business of  
8 a cemetery.

9 (8) "Closed container" means a container in which cremated remains can be placed and enclosed  
10 in a manner that prevents leakage or spillage of cremated remains or entrance of foreign material.

11 (9) "Columbarium" means a room or space in a building or structure used or intended to be used  
12 for the interment of cremated remains.

13 (10) "Cremated remains" means all human remains recovered after the completion of the cremation,  
14 including pulverization that leaves only bone fragments reduced to unidentifiable dimensions.

15 (11) "Cremation" means the technical process, using heat, that reduces human remains to bone  
16 fragments. The reduction takes place through heat and evaporation.

17 (12) "Cremation chamber" means the enclosed space within which the cremation process takes  
18 place. Cremation chambers of crematoriums licensed by this chapter must be used exclusively for the  
19 cremation of human remains.

20 (13) "Cremation container" means the container in which the human remains are placed in the  
21 cremation chamber for a cremation. A cremation container must meet substantially all of the following  
22 standards:

23 (a) be composed of readily combustible materials suitable for cremation;

24 (b) be able to be closed in order to provide a complete covering for the human remains;

25 (c) be resistant to leakage and spillage;

26 (d) be rigid enough for handling with ease; and

27 (e) be able to provide protection for the health, safety, and integrity of crematory personnel.

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1 (14) "Crematory" means the building or portion of a building that houses the cremation chamber and  
2 the holding facility.

3 (15) "Crematory operator" means the person in charge of the licensed crematory facility.

4 (16) "Crematory technician" means an employee of a crematory facility who is trained to perform  
5 cremations and is licensed by the board.

6 (17) "Crypt" means a chamber of sufficient size to inter the remains of a deceased person.

7 (18) "Department" means the department of labor and industry provided for in Title 2, chapter 15,  
8 part 17.

9 (19) "Embalming" means:

10 (a) obtaining burial or removal permits or assuming other duties incidental to the practice of  
11 embalming;

12 (b) disinfecting and preserving or attempting to preserve dead human bodies in their entirety or in  
13 parts by the use of chemical substances, fluids, or gases ordinarily intended for that use by introducing the  
14 chemical substances, fluids, or gases into the body by vascular or hypodermic injection or by direct introduction  
15 into the organs or cavities; and

16 (c) restorative art.

17 (20) "Funeral directing" includes:

18 (a) supervising funerals;

19 (b) the making of preneed or at-need contractual arrangements for funerals;

20 (c) preparing dead bodies for burial, other than by embalming;

21 (d) maintaining a mortuary for the preparation, disposition, or care of dead human bodies; and

22 (e) representing to the public that one is a funeral director.

23 (21) "Holding facility" means an area within or adjacent to the crematory facility designated for the  
24 retention of human remains prior to cremation that must:

25 (a) comply with any applicable public health law;

26 (b) preserve the dignity of the human remains;

27 (c) recognize the health, safety, and integrity of the crematory operator and crematory personnel;

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1 and

2 (d) be secure from access by anyone other than authorized personnel.

3 (22) "Human remains" means fetal remains or the body of a deceased person or part of a body or  
4 limb that has been removed from a living person, including the body, part of a body, or limb in any stage of  
5 decomposition.

6 (23) "Interment" means any lawful disposition of cremated remains or human remains.

7 (24) (a) "Intern" means a person who has met the educational and testing requirements for a license  
8 to practice mortuary science in Montana, has been licensed by the board as an intern, and is engaged in the  
9 practice of mortuary science under the supervision of a licensed mortician.

10 (b) For the purposes of this subsection (24), "supervision" means the extent of oversight that a  
11 mortician believes an intern requires based on the training, experience, judgment, and professional  
12 development of the intern.

13 (25) "Lot" or "grave space" means a space in a cemetery used or intended to be used for interment.

14 (26) "Mausoleum" means a community-type room or space in a building or structure used or  
15 intended to be used for the interment of human remains in crypts or niches.

16 (27) "Mortician" means a person licensed under this chapter to practice mortuary science.

17 (28) (a) "Mortuary" means a place of business licensed by the board, located in a building or portion  
18 of a building having a specific street address or location, containing but not limited to a suitable room for  
19 viewing or visitation and a preparation room, and devoted exclusively to activities that are related to the  
20 preparation and arrangements for funerals, transportation, burial, or other disposition of dead human bodies.

21 (b) The term includes conducting activities from the place of business referred to in subsection  
22 (28)(a) that are incidental, convenient, or related to the preparation of funeral or memorial services or rites or  
23 the transportation, burial, cremation, or other disposition of dead human bodies in any area where those  
24 activities may be conducted.

25 (29) "Mortuary science" means the profession or practice of funeral directing and embalming.

26 (30) "Niche" means a space in a columbarium or mausoleum used or intended to be used for the  
27 interment of the cremated remains or human remains of one or more deceased persons.

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1 (31) "Perpetual care and maintenance" means continual and proper maintenance of cemetery  
2 buildings, grounds, and lots or grave spaces.

3 (32) "Preneed arrangements" means arrangements made with a licensed mortician by a person on  
4 the person's own behalf or by an authorized individual on the person's behalf prior to the death of the person.

5 (33) "Temporary container" means a receptacle for cremated remains that is usually made of  
6 cardboard, plastic film, or similar material designed to hold the cremated remains until an urn or other  
7 permanent container is acquired.

8 (34) "Urn" means a receptacle designed to permanently encase the cremated remains."  
9

10 **Section 3.** Section 50-20-105, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"50-20-105. Duties of department.** ~~(1) The department shall make regulations to provide for the~~  
12 ~~humane disposition of dead infants or fetuses.~~

13 ~~(2)(1)~~ The department shall make regulations for a comprehensive system of reporting of maternal  
14 deaths and complications within the state resulting directly or indirectly from abortion, subject to the provisions  
15 of 50-20-110(5).

16 ~~(3)(2)~~ The department shall report to the attorney general any apparent violation of this chapter.

17 ~~(4)(3)~~ The department shall develop a certification form for use in accordance with 50-20-113."  
18

19 NEW SECTION. **Section 4. Appropriation.** (1) There is appropriated \$1,000 from the general fund to  
20 the department of public health and human services for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023.

21 (2) The appropriation must be used to pay for the costs associated with designing and distributing  
22 the form described in [section 1(5)].

23 (3) The legislature intends that the appropriation provided for in this section is a one-time-only  
24 appropriation.  
25

26 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
27 integral part of Title 50, chapter 20, part 1, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 20, part 1, apply to [section 1].

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2            NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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- END -

AMENDED