



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 585		DATE: 2/3/2021	
COMMITTEE: Judiciary			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Yahoo.Com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2021 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: SAM LICKLIDER		PHONE NUMBER: 5734185069
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1302		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: samllicklider@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/3/2021 12:00 AM

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The statute being amended lists who has the authority to determine the final disposition of a "dead human body." As you might imagine, this can, at times, be a very contentious process and is made even more difficult because of the stress involved with losing a loved one. The first change removes the surviving spouse from the list if an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed and is pending. Currently, situations have arisen where the surviving spouse will make decisions on the final disposition that conflict with other family members. These situations can be very stressful for all concerned, especially when other family members are involved, such as children from a previous marriage. The next change provides clarity as to the ability of a party to delegate the right of sepulcher. An example might be you have a husband and wife. The wife goes on a long trip where she will be unreachable. Is she able to provide a trusted friend with a power of attorney to act for her in exercising the right of sepulcher. Many have opinions on the issue, but there is no clear law, clarity would be helpful. The last change provides clarity in notice where a person with a superior claim receives notice from a person with an inferior claim that the person with the inferior claim desires to exercise the right of sepulcher. This would provide that if the person with the superior claim does not object within forty-eight hours, they will be deemed to have waived the right, and the person with the inferior claim may proceed.