

1 AN ACT relating to cremation of dead bodies.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 72.450 is amended to read as follows:

- 4 (1) A coroner who has possession of a dead body or a part thereof shall make a bona  
5 fide attempt to notify the spouse, if any, or next of kin of the decedent's death. In  
6 the event the coroner is unable to locate the spouse, if any, or next of kin, he or she  
7 may cause the body to be buried **or cremated** at the expense of the fiscal court,  
8 consolidated local government, or urban-county government, whichever is  
9 appropriate. **The decision between burial or cremation shall be made by the**  
10 **coroner, fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county**  
11 **government that has responsibility for the expense pursuant to this subsection.**
- 12 (2) In the event the body is buried **or cremated** at public expense, the coroner shall take  
13 possession of all money or other property found on or belonging to the decedent  
14 and shall deliver same to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-  
15 county government, whichever is appropriate. Any money or other property found  
16 on the body of the decedent or belonging to him or her shall be delivered by the  
17 coroner to the fiscal court, consolidated local government, or urban-county  
18 government, whichever is appropriate, to help defray burial **or cremation** expenses.  
19 Any excess funds shall escheat to such governmental agency one (1) year  
20 thereafter.
- 21 (3) In lieu of having an unclaimed body buried **or cremated** at public expense, the  
22 coroner may deliver such body or part thereof to a state medical school in  
23 accordance with the provisions of KRS 311.300 to 311.350.