

February 13, 1967
County and Township Affairs

*Passive amended 2-22
appropriation 3-9 - Para 5-1*

House File 167

By DARRINGTON, PALMER, MENSING
and McCRAY

Passed House, Date 3-6-67

Passed Senate, Date 6-9-67

Vote: Ayes 114 Nays 0

Vote: Ayes 53 Nays 1

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to funeral benefits and to amend various code sections relating thereto.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Section two hundred thirty-nine point nine
2 (239.9), Code 1966, is amended by striking from line seven (7)
3 the words "one hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu
4 thereof the words "three hundred fifty".

1 Sec. 2. Section two hundred forty-one point seventeen
2 (241.17), Code 1966, is amended by striking from line six (6)
3 the words "one hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu
4 thereof the words "three hundred fifty".

1 Sec. 3. Section two hundred forty-one A point eleven
2 (241A.11), Code 1966, is hereby amended as follows:

3 1. By striking from line seven (7) the words "one hundred
4 seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "three
5 hundred fifty".

6 2. By striking from line nine (9) the words "three hundred
7 fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven hundred".

8 3. By striking from line twelve (12) the words "three
9 hundred fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven
10 hundred".

11 4. By striking from line twenty-one (21) the words "one
12 hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the words
13 "three hundred fifty".

14 5. By striking from lines twenty-three (23) and twenty-four
15 (24) the words "one hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu
16 thereof the words "three hundred fifty".

17 6. By striking from line thirty-five (35) the word "fifty"
18 and inserting in lieu thereof the words "one hundred".

19 7. By striking from lines thirty-eight (38) and thirty-nine
20 (39) the words "one hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu
21 thereof the words "three hundred fifty".

1 Sec. 4. Section two hundred forty-nine point eighteen (249.18),
2 Code 1966, is hereby amended as follows:

3 1. By striking from line seven (7) the words "one hundred
4 seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "three
5 hundred fifty".

6 2. By striking from line ten (10) the words "three hundred
7 fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven hundred".

8 3. By striking from lines fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) the
9 words "three hundred fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof the
10 words "seven hundred".

11 4. By striking from line twenty-four (24) the words "one
12 hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the words
13 "three hundred fifty".

14 5. By striking from lines twenty-six (26) and twenty-seven
15 (27) the words "one hundred seventy-five" and inserting in lieu
16 thereof the words "three hundred fifty".

17 6. By striking from line thirty-eight (38) the word "fifty"
18 and inserting in lieu thereof the words "one hundred".

19 7. By striking from line forty-one (41) the words "one hundred
20 seventy-five" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "three
21 hundred fifty".

22 8. By striking from line sixty-three (63) the words "three
23 hundred fifty" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "seven
24 hundred".

EXPLANATION

The allowance for funerals under the aid to dependent children program, the aid to the blind program, the aid to the disabled program, and old-age assistance has not been increased since 1957. The funeral directors of Iowa did not ask to be included under these programs and have carried on their part of the administration of such programs at a distinct out of pocket loss. This bill will provide an increase in funeral allowance from one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) to three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) and will also authorize an increase in the maximum allowable ceiling from three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) to seven hundred dollars (\$700.00).

The present one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) sum for these funerals dates back to 1957. From that date until the present time, the funeral directors' operational costs have increased tremendously including merchandise costs, skilled labor and common labor costs, taxes, rolling stock and maintenance costs. In short, as any business or professional man knows, there has been a tremendous increase in every item which goes into a funeral service.

The old-age assistance program was first enacted in 1935 and, as stated, the Iowa funeral directors did not ask to be included in such program at that time nor in the additional programs which have been developed since that time.

It is submitted the time has now arrived when the funeral directors should either be relieved entirely of this responsibility or be given a more realistic allowance.

Since 1957, allowances for medical assistance, hospital expense, nursing home expense, drugs, etc. have increased tremendously and properly so. The funeral profession in Iowa, however, has not been recognized and comparable allowances made. In addition, it is believed that the funeral allowance is the only one which has a specific ceiling fixed in the code. It simply isn't fair for one segment of our economy which is the only group capable of doing the particular job involved, to be singled out and forced to do the job at an out of pocket loss.

The funeral profession in Iowa is not endeavoring to make a profit on old-age assistance and similar funerals but it strongly urges that the law be amended to permit the Iowa funeral director to operate on a break even basis with respect to such funerals. It is submitted that the members of the legislature should recognize the funeral director and take action to relieve the present inequity.

House

- 1 Amend H.F. 167 as follows:
- 2 1. Amend section one (1), line four (4), by striking the
3 word "three" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 4 2. Amend section two (2), line four (4), by striking the
5 word "three" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 6 3. Amend section three (3) as follows:
- 7 a. By striking from line four (4) the word "three" and
8 inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 9 b. By striking from line seven (7) the word "seven" and
10 inserting in lieu thereof the word "five".
- 11 c. By striking from line nine (9) the word "seven" and
12 inserting in lieu thereof the word "five".
- 13 d. By striking from line thirteen (13) the word "three"
14 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 15 e. By striking from line sixteen (16) the word "three"
16 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 17 f. By striking from line twenty-one (21) the word "three"
18 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 19 4. Amend section four (4) as follows:
- 20 a. By striking from line four (4) the word "three" and
21 inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 22 b. By striking from line seven (7) the word "seven" and
23 inserting in lieu thereof the word "five".
- 24 c. By striking from line ten (10) the word "seven" and
25 inserting in lieu thereof the word "five".
- 26 d. By striking from line thirteen (13) the word "three"
27 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 28 e. By striking from line sixteen (16) the word "three" and
29 inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 30 f. By striking from line twenty (20) the word "three"
31 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two".
- 32 g. By striking from line twenty-three (23) the word
33 "seven" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "five".
- 34 5. Further amend section four (4) by adding thereto the
35 following subsection "9. by striking from line sixty-one (61)
36 the figures '635' and inserting in lieu thereof the figures
37 '633'".

Filed - *Adopted 3-6*
February 22, 1967

By COMMITTEE ON COUNTY AND
TOWNSHIP AFFAIRS.

Senate

- 1 Amend House File 167 as follows:
2 Amend Section four (4) as follows:
3 1. By striking from line five (5) the word "fifty" and
4 inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty-five".
5 2. By striking from line seven (7) the words "five hun-
6 dred" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "four hundred
7 fifty".
8 3. By striking from line ten (10) the words "five hun-
9 dred" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "four hundred
10 fifty".
11 4. By striking from line thirteen (13) the word "fifty"
12 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty-five".
13 5. By striking from line sixteen (16) the word "fifty"
14 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty-five".
15 6. By striking from line twenty-one (21) the word "fifty"
16 and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty-five".
17 7. By striking from lines twenty-three (23) and twenty-
18 four (24) the words "five hundred" and inserting in lieu
19 thereof the words "four hundred fifty".

Filed - *Lost 6-9*
Mar 25, 1967

By LUCKEN, STEPHENS and HILL.

- 1 Amend House File 167 as follows:
2 1. By striking subsection six (6) of section three (3)
3 and by inserting the following in lieu thereof:
4 "6. By striking the words 'expense thereof' in line
5 thirty-four (34), and substituting the words 'usual and
6 customary charge therefor' and by striking the words 'in a
7 total amount not to exceed fifty dollars,' from lines
8 thirty-five (35) and thirty-six (36)."
9 2. By striking subsection six (6) of section four (4)
10 and by inserting the following in lieu thereof:
11 "6. By striking the words 'expense thereof' from lines
12 thirty-six (36) and thirty-seven (37) and substituting the
13 words 'usual and customary charge therefor' and by striking
14 the words 'in a total amount not to exceed fifty dollars,'
15 from lines thirty-seven (37) and thirty-eight (38)."

Filed - *Withdrawn 6-9*
March 29, 1967

By KLEFSTAD and O'MALLEY