

**House File 52 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 52  
BY SORENSEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the natural reduction of human remains,  
2 making penalties applicable, and including effective date  
3 provisions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 156.1, subsection 7, Code 2023, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Providing natural reduction services.

4 Sec. 2. Section 156.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding the  
5 following new subsections:

6 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. "*Natural reduction*" means the contained,  
7 accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. "*Natural reduction establishment*" means  
9 a place of business as defined by the board which provides any  
10 service related to natural reduction.

11 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 156.5 **Natural reduction services.**

12 The board shall adopt rules for the provision of natural  
13 reduction services by funeral directors and the licensure of  
14 natural reduction establishments.

15 Sec. 4. Section 156.14, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
16 1, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

17 A person shall not establish, conduct, or maintain a  
18 funeral establishment, a natural reduction establishment, or a  
19 cremation establishment in this state without a license. The  
20 license shall be identified as an establishment license.

21 Sec. 5. Section 156.14, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 2. The board shall specify by rule the licensing procedures  
24 to be followed, including specifications of forms for use in  
25 applying for an establishment license and fees for filing  
26 an application. The board shall specify by rule minimum  
27 standards for professional responsibility in the conduct of a  
28 funeral establishment, a natural reduction establishment, or a  
29 cremation establishment.

30 Sec. 6. Section 156.14, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph  
31 1, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

32 To qualify for a funeral establishment, a natural reduction  
33 establishment, or a cremation establishment license, the  
34 applicant shall submit to the board a license fee as determined  
35 by the board and a completed application on a form prescribed

1 by the board that shall include the following information and  
2 be given under oath:

3 Sec. 7. Section 156.15, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 1. A funeral establishment, a natural reduction  
6 establishment, or cremation establishment shall not be operated  
7 until a license or renewal certificate has been issued to the  
8 establishment by the board.

9 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2024,  
10 except that the board of mortuary science may adopt rules for  
11 the implementation of this Act prior to that date.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill relates to the practice of natural reduction by  
16 funeral directors. The bill defines "natural reduction" as the  
17 contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.  
18 The bill prohibits a person other than a funeral director  
19 from providing natural reduction services and requires that  
20 natural reduction services be provided in a natural reduction  
21 establishment, defined in the bill. The bill requires the  
22 board of mortuary sciences to adopt rules for the provision  
23 of natural reduction services and the licensure of natural  
24 reduction establishments. To qualify for a natural reduction  
25 establishment license, the bill requires a person to submit an  
26 application and license fee as determined by the board. By  
27 operation of law, a person who violates a provision of the bill  
28 may be subject to a civil penalty as determined by the board  
29 and a person who makes a false statement in an application  
30 for natural reduction establishment license is subject to all  
31 penalties prescribed for making a false affidavit. The bill  
32 takes effect July 1, 2024, except that the board of mortuary  
33 science may adopt rules for the implementation of the bill  
34 prior to that date.