

**House File 2432 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2432  
BY CROKEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the natural reduction of human remains, making  
2 penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 156.1, subsection 7, Code 2026, is amended  
2 by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. Providing natural reduction services.

4 Sec. 2. Section 156.1, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
5 following new subsections:

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

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 7B. "Natural reduction establishment" means  
9 a secure structure, room, or other space within a funeral  
10 establishment or on the property of a funeral establishment which  
11 provides any service related to natural reduction.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **156.6 Natural reduction services.**

13 1. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A for  
14 the provision of natural reduction services by funeral directors  
15 and the licensure of natural reduction establishments. The rules  
16 shall include a minimum setback distance of five hundred feet  
17 between a natural reduction establishment and any drinking water  
18 source.

19 2. The board shall inform each funeral director who operates  
20 a natural reduction establishment of cemeteries that are able  
21 to receive naturally reduced human remains pursuant to section  
22 523I.18.

23 Sec. 4. Section 156.14, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph 1,  
24 Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

25 A person shall not establish, conduct, or maintain a funeral  
26 establishment, a natural reduction establishment, or a cremation  
27 establishment in this state without a license. The license shall  
28 be identified as an establishment license.

29 Sec. 5. Section 156.14, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended  
30 to read as follows:

31 2. The board shall specify by rule the licensing procedures  
32 to be followed, including specifications of forms for use in  
33 applying for an establishment license and fees for filing an  
34 application. The board shall specify by rule minimum standards  
35 for professional responsibility in the conduct of a funeral

1 establishment, a natural reduction establishment, or a cremation  
2 establishment.

3 Sec. 6. Section 156.14, subsection 3, unnumbered paragraph 1,  
4 Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

5 To qualify for a funeral establishment, a natural reduction  
6 establishment, or a cremation establishment license, the  
7 applicant shall submit to the board a license fee as determined  
8 by the board and a completed application on a form prescribed  
9 by the board that shall include the following information and be  
10 given under oath:

11 Sec. 7. Section 156.15, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 1. A funeral establishment, a natural reduction  
14 establishment, or cremation establishment shall not be operated  
15 until a license or renewal certificate has been issued to the  
16 establishment by the board.

17 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 523I.318 Interment of naturally  
18 reduced remains.

19 1. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
20 for the interment of naturally reduced remains at a cemetery. A  
21 cemetery that does not comply with rules adopted pursuant to this  
22 subsection shall not inter naturally reduced remains.

23 2. The commissioner shall inform the board of mortuary  
24 science of each cemetery that is in compliance with rules of  
25 the commissioner regarding the interment of naturally reduced  
26 remains and has expressed interest in receiving naturally reduced  
27 remains.

28 3. For the purposes of this section, "*naturally reduced*  
29 *remains*" means human remains that have undergone natural  
30 reduction as defined in section 156.1.

31 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2027,  
32 except that the board of mortuary science and commissioner of  
33 insurance may adopt rules for implementation of this Act prior to  
34 that date.

35

EXPLANATION

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

3       This bill relates to the practice of natural reduction by  
4 funeral directors. The bill defines "natural reduction" as  
5 the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.  
6 The bill prohibits a person other than a funeral director  
7 from providing natural reduction services and requires that  
8 natural reduction services be provided in a natural reduction  
9 establishment, as defined in the bill. The bill requires the  
10 board of mortuary science to adopt rules for the provision of  
11 natural reduction services and the licensure of natural reduction  
12 establishments, which shall include a minimum setback distance  
13 of 500 feet from any drinking water source. To qualify for  
14 a natural reduction establishment license, the bill requires a  
15 person to submit an application and license fee as determined by  
16 the board.

17       The bill requires the commissioner of insurance (commissioner)  
18 to adopt rules for the interment of naturally reduced human  
19 remains at a cemetery and prohibits a cemetery from interring  
20 naturally reduced human remains unless it complies with the rules  
21 of the commissioner. The bill directs the commissioner to inform  
22 the board of mortuary science of all cemeteries that can receive  
23 naturally reduced human remains.

24       By operation of law, a person who violates a provision of  
25 the bill may be subject to a civil penalty as determined by the  
26 board and a person who makes a false statement in an application  
27 for a natural reduction establishment license is subject to all  
28 penalties prescribed for making a false affidavit. A person  
29 who fails to comply with the rules of the commissioner relating  
30 to the interment of naturally reduced human remains commits  
31 an unfair practice and may be subject to civil and criminal  
32 penalties.

33       The bill takes effect July 1, 2027, except that the board  
34 of mortuary science and commissioner may adopt rules for  
35 implementation of the bill prior to that date.