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HOUSE BILL NO. 1008

House Amendments in [] — February 10, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-301 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the return of bodies donated for scientific study.

Patron—Shuler

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 32.1-301 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 32.1-301. Burial, cremation, or return of bodies after scientific study.

After the bodies distributed pursuant to § 32.1-299 have been used for the purpose of instruction, they shall be decently interred or cremated by the institution or individual receiving them. *However, if the decedent has stipulated in writing before his death that his body, lawfully donated for scientific study, shall be returned to relatives for disposition after scientific study has been completed, or if the decedent's next of kin, who lawfully donated the body for scientific study, requests in writing at the time of donation that the decedent's body shall be returned to relatives after scientific study has been completed, the institution or individual that received the body shall return the decedent's remains to his next of kin or relatives. [Any such writing shall acknowledge the responsibility to maintain the current name, address, and telephone number of the relatives to whom the decedent's body is to be returned.]*

The written request of the decedent's next of kin shall include the name of the next of kin, the current address to which the remains shall be delivered, and the current telephone number of the next of kin or relatives where they may be contacted. The costs of transporting and delivering the remains shall be borne by the [~~next of kin or relatives of the decedent~~ institution or individual receiving the body] . The institution or individual that received the decedent's body and who has received such a written request shall not be obligated to return the decedent's remains if the name, address, and telephone number of the next of kin or relatives have not been provided in such written request [, or are no longer current] .

ENGROSSED

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