

## 1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2811.1, relating to handling*  
3 *of human remains.*

4  
5 Approved

[H 201]

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2811.1 as follows:**

8 *§ 54.1-2811.1. Handling and storage of human remains.*

9 *A. Upon taking custody of a dead human body, a funeral service establishment shall maintain such*  
10 *body in a manner that provides complete coverage of the body and that is resistant to leakage or*  
11 *spillage, except during embalming or preparation of an unembalmed body for final disposition;*  
12 *restoration and dressing of a body in preparation for final disposition; and viewing during any*  
13 *visitation and funeral service.*

14 *B. If a dead human body is to be stored for more than 48 hours prior to disposition, a funeral*  
15 *services establishment having custody of such body shall ensure that the dead human body is maintained*  
16 *in refrigeration at no more than approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit or embalmed. A dead human*  
17 *body shall be maintained in refrigeration and shall not be embalmed in the absence of express*  
18 *permission by a next of kin of the deceased or a court order.*

19 *C. If a dead human body is to be stored for more than 10 days prior to disposition at a location*  
20 *other than the funeral service establishment, the funeral service establishment shall disclose to the*  
21 *contract buyer the location where the body is to be stored and the method of storage.*

22 *D. Funeral services establishments, crematories, or transportation services shall not transport animal*  
23 *remains together with dead human bodies. Further, animal remains shall not be refrigerated in a unit*  
24 *where dead human bodies are being stored.*

ENROLLED

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