

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

*An Act to amend and reenact § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to identification prior to cremation.*

[H 1659]

Approved

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

**1. That § 54.1-2818.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 54.1-2818.1. Prerequisites for cremation.

No dead human body shall be cremated without permission of the medical examiner as required by § 32.1-284 and visual identification of the deceased by the next-of-kin or his representative, who may be any person designated to make arrangements for the decedent's burial or the disposition of his remains pursuant to § 54.1-2825 ~~or~~, an agent named in an advance directive pursuant to § 54.1-2984, *or a sheriff, upon court order, if no next-of-kin, designated person or agent is available.* When visual identification is not feasible, other positive identification of the deceased may be used as a prerequisite for cremation.