

1 SENATE BILL NO. 186

2 INTRODUCED BY D. STEINBEISSER

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE INITIAL LIMIT FOR A POLICY OR
5 CERTIFICATE OF FUNERAL INSURANCE IS UP TO \$15,000; AMENDING SECTION 33-20-1501, MCA; AND
6 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **Section 1.** Section 33-20-1501, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"33-20-1501. Funeral insurance.** (1) (a) "Funeral insurance" means an insurance policy or certificate
12 that requires a one-time payment or the payment of premiums to provide for the costs of a funeral and burial for
13 the policyholder or a named individual.

14 (b) Funeral insurance is a type of life insurance provided for in 33-1-208 and regulated under Title 33,
15 chapter 20. The terms "burial insurance" and "preneed funeral insurance" have the same meaning as funeral
16 insurance.

17 (c) Funeral insurance may be:

18 (i) included in a life insurance policy. This form of funeral insurance may not be sold by or through a
19 person licensed under Title 37, chapter 19, regardless of whether a person licensed under Title 37, chapter 19,
20 also has an insurance producer's license in this state.

21 (ii) a limited policy or certificate with a guaranteed death benefit that may be sold by:

22 (A) a licensed insurance producer; or

23 (B) a person licensed under Title 37, chapter 19, parts 3 and 4, if that person also is licensed as a life
24 insurance producer in this state.

25 (d) Unless otherwise provided by Title 33, chapter 20, the initial policy or certificate limit under subsection
26 (1)(c)(ii) is up to \$15,000.

27 (2) Funeral insurance for the purposes of Title 33 is not a fixed amount prepaid into a trust or escrow
28 fund, called a prearranged funeral plan, as described in 37-19-827, or a preneed arrangement, as defined in
29 37-19-101, and regulated under Title 37, chapter 19.

30 (3) A funeral insurance policy and any solicitation material for the policy must clearly indicate that:

1 (a) the policy is a life insurance product;

2 (b) the applicant may designate the beneficiary, including but not limited to a funeral director, mortician,
3 mortuary, or undertaker, if the applicant has an insurable interest in the life of the insured; and

4 (c) subject to the provisions of 33-20-1502 and this section, the beneficiary may use the proceeds for
5 any purpose.

6 (4) The funeral insurance policy must state that the insurance company shall, as a condition of paying
7 the benefits of the insurance policy, require from the funeral director, mortician, mortuary, or undertaker:

8 (a) a certified copy of the certificate of death of the insured or other evidence of death satisfactory to the
9 insurance company; and

10 (b) a certificate of completion signed by the funeral director, mortician, or undertaker stating that the
11 funeral director, mortician, undertaker, or mortuary has delivered all the goods and performed all the services
12 contracted for, by, or on behalf of the insured.

13 (5) (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 33-15-414, the funeral insurance policy must contain an
14 assignability clause that allows the policy or certificate to be assigned or otherwise transferred to another funeral
15 director, mortician, mortuary, or undertaker licensed to do business in this state in conjunction with the
16 assumption of the contractual obligation to provide the funeral goods or services to the extent permitted by state
17 or federal law for the purpose of the insured's eligibility for supplemental security income benefits, medicaid, or
18 other public assistance benefits.

19 (b) The assignability clause may not be used by a funeral director, mortician, mortuary, or undertaker
20 to pledge, assign, transfer, borrow from, or otherwise encumber an insurance policy assigned to it for purposes
21 of purchasing funeral goods or services prior to delivering all of the goods and performing all of the services
22 contracted for, by, or on behalf of the insured.

23 (6) After the death of a person who at any time received medicaid benefits, a funeral director, mortician,
24 mortuary, undertaker, or other person, including but not limited to the decedent's spouse, heir, devisee, or
25 personal representative, who is the beneficiary of funeral insurance in excess of \$5,000 in value designated to
26 pay for the disposition of the medicaid recipient's remains and for related expenses shall, after paying for the
27 disposition and related expenses, pay all remaining funds to the department of public health and human services
28 within 30 days following the receipt of the funeral insurance death benefit. The funds must be paid to the
29 department regardless of any provision in a written contract, insurance policy, or other agreement entered into
30 on or after January 1, 2008, directing a different disposition of the funds. Funds paid to the department under this

1 section are not considered to be property of the deceased medicaid recipient's estate, and the provisions of
2 53-6-167 do not apply to recovery of the funds by the department."

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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