



HB 110

CLARIFY EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE

BY REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE

SPONSOR – REP. KENNETH HOLMLUND HD 38

BUSINESS & LABOR

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 1/30/15

BILL NO.

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SUMMARY OF CHANGES OR ACTUAL AMENDMENT LANGUAGE

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- 10 **Section 1.** Section 37-19-302, MCA, is amended to read:
- 11 **“37-19-302. License required for practice of mortuary science -- qualifications of applicants. (1)**
- 12 The practice of embalming or mortuary science by anyone who does not hold a mortician’s license issued by the
- 13 board is prohibited. A person 18 years of age or older wishing to practice mortuary science in this state must
- 14 apply to the board on the form and in the manner prescribed by the board.
- 15 (2) To qualify for a mortician’s license, a person must:
- 16 (a) be of good moral character;
- 17 (b) ~~present evidence of having satisfactorily completed 90 quarter credits or the equivalent of study at~~
- 18 have graduated from an accredited college or university with an associate degree in mortuary science;
- 19 (c) ~~in addition to the 90 quarter credits or the equivalent of study required in subsection (2)(b), have~~
- 20 graduated with a diploma have earned in subjects prescribed by the board an additional 30 semester or 45
- 21 quarter credits from an accredited college of mortuary science or university that have not been applied toward
- 22 the requirements in subsection (2)(b);
- 23 (d) pass an examination prescribed by the board; and
- 24 (e) serve a 1-year internship under the supervision of a licensed mortician in a licensed mortuary after
- 25 passing the examination provided for in subsection (2)(d).
- 26 (3) A person who fails the examination required in subsection (2)(d) may retake it under conditions
- 27 prescribed by rule of the board.”

OVERVIEW OF BOARD’S POSITION

Clarify education requirements for practice of mortuary science due to change in national accreditation standards.

Historically, a mortician’s education included two years of general education college credits and a one-year mortuary science program, for a total of three years (excluding a required internship). In 2004, the American Board of Funeral Service Education, the accreditation body acknowledged by the Montana Board of Funeral Service, changed its accreditation requirements from a 1-year mortuary science program to a 2-year program and incorporated general education credits. The amendments make clear that the intent is to continue to require a three-year education, not a four-year education (before the internship).

DATA IN SUPPORT OF THE BOARD’S POSITION

There has been confusion by applicants, and employers seeking to hire applicants, regarding the total years of education required for licensure due to the change in accreditation (from a 1 year mortuary science program to a 2 year mortuary science program required for accreditation.) The proposed change clarifies that the education requirement will continue to be three years.