

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Burials for indigent persons.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to county burial expenses; providing for
2 reimbursement of county burial expenses for indigent
3 persons; imposing a surcharge for death certificates;
4 creating an account; specifying applicability; and
5 providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 18-3-504(c) and 35-1-428 by creating
10 a new subsection (c) are amended to read:

11

12 **18-3-504. Powers and duties generally.**

13

1 (c) Each board of county commissioners shall provide
2 for the burial of the human remains of any deceased person
3 not receiving personal opportunities with employment
4 responsibilities (POWER) assistance, supplemental security
5 income or Medicaid under the Wyoming Public Assistance and
6 Social Services Act at the time of death and without
7 sufficient means in his own estate or other resources to
8 provide burial or cremation. Each board shall account for
9 the county expenses incurred under this subsection during a
10 fiscal biennium. By August 1 of each even numbered year, a
11 county may request reimbursement by the state treasurer for
12 the expenses incurred under this subsection for the
13 preceding fiscal biennium. The state treasurer shall
14 reimburse the expenses in accordance with W.S. 35-1-428(c).

15

16 **35-1-428. Fees for copies and searches; surcharges.**

17

18 (c) In addition to the fees imposed by department of
19 health rules under subsection (a) of this section and the
20 surcharges imposed under subsection (b) of this section,
21 the department shall collect a surcharge of five dollars
22 (\$5.00) for each copy of a death certificate issued
23 pursuant to this article. Revenues collected from the

1 surcharge imposed under this subsection shall be deposited
2 by the state treasurer in the county burial account, which
3 is hereby created. All funds within the account shall be
4 invested by the state treasurer and all investment earnings
5 from the account shall be deposited in the account. Subject
6 to legislative appropriation, the state treasurer shall
7 disperse funds within the account to counties that made a
8 request for reimbursement under W.S. 18-3-504(c). If a
9 legislative appropriation is insufficient to reimburse all
10 reimbursement requests under W.S. 18-3-504(c), the state
11 treasurer shall disperse the available funds so that each
12 county that made a reimbursement request receives an equal
13 percentage reimbursement of its request.

14

15 **Section 2.** This act shall only apply to county
16 expenses incurred under W.S. 18-3-504(c) on or after the
17 effective date of this act.

18

19 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

20

21

(END)