

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1535

H.P. 1139

House of Representatives, April 19, 2021

An Act To Allow Green Death Care Practices by Alkaline Hydrolysis and Natural Organic Reduction

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 15, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.
Cosponsored by Representative: PIERCE of Falmouth.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 13 MRSA §1031-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§1031-A. Definitions**

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
5 have the following meanings.

6 **1. Alkaline hydrolysis.** "Alkaline hydrolysis" means the reduction of human remains
7 to bone fragments and essential elements in a licensed alkaline hydrolysis facility using
8 heat, pressure, water and base chemical agents.

9 **2. Alkaline hydrolysis facility.** "Alkaline hydrolysis facility" means a building or
10 structure or a room or other space in a building or structure containing one or more
11 hydrolysis vessels to be used for alkaline hydrolysis.

12 **3. Natural organic reduction.** "Natural organic reduction" means the contained
13 accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

14 **4. Natural organic reduction facility.** "Natural organic reduction facility" means a
15 building or structure or a room or other space in a building or structure or real property
16 where natural organic reduction is facilitated and occurs.

17 **Sec. 2. 13 MRSA §1032** is amended to read:

18 **§1032. Disposal of bodies**

19 Except as otherwise provided by law, or in case of a dead body being rightfully carried
20 through or removed from the State for the purpose of burial or disposition elsewhere, every
21 dead body of a human being dying within the State and the remains of any body after
22 dissection therein ~~shall~~ must be decently buried, entombed in a mausoleum, vault or tomb,
23 ~~or cremated~~ or subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction within a
24 reasonable time after death. The permanent disposition of such bodies or remains ~~shall~~
25 must be by interment in the earth, or deposit in a chamber, vault or tomb of a cemetery
26 owned, maintained and operated in accordance with the laws of this State, by deposit in a
27 crypt of a mausoleum, or by cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction.
28 The remains of a human body after cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic
29 reduction may be deposited in a niche of a columbarium or a crypt of a mausoleum, buried
30 or disposed of in any manner not contrary to law. No deposit of the bodies or remains of
31 the human dead ~~shall~~ may be made in a single chamber, vault or tomb partly above and
32 partly below the natural surface of the ground, unless the part thereof below such surface
33 is of a permanent character, constructed of materials capable of withstanding extreme
34 climatic conditions, waterproof and air tight, and capable of being sealed permanently to
35 prevent all escape of effluvia, and unless the part thereof above the natural surface of the
36 ground is constructed of natural stone of a standard not less than that required by the United
37 States Government for monuments erected in national cemeteries, or durability sufficient
38 to withstand all conditions of weather.

39 **Sec. 3. 13 MRSA §1035**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §25, is further
40 amended to read:

41 **§1035. Penalties**

1 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person who fails to comply with or
2 violates any of the provisions of this chapter in respect to the establishment, maintenance
3 or operation of a cemetery, community mausoleum, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility
4 or natural organic reduction facility or columbarium or to the disposal of dead human
5 bodies commits a Class E crime except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, sections 1704 and
6 1705, the fine may not be less than \$100 or more than \$500.

7 **Sec. 4. 13 MRSA §1101-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 421, §1, is amended
8 to read:

9 **2. Columbarium.** "Columbarium" means a structure or room or space in a mausoleum
10 or other building containing niches or recesses for disposition of ~~cremated~~ human remains
11 that have undergone cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction.

12 **Sec. 5. 13 MRSA §1264, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 474, §1, is amended to
13 read:

14 **1. Trust accounts.** Pre-need funds received for cemetery ~~or~~, crematory, alkaline
15 hydrolysis or natural organic reduction services or property to be delivered at or after the
16 date of death must be placed in a cemetery ~~or~~, crematory or alkaline hydrolysis facility or
17 natural organic reduction facility trust account in a bank, trust company, credit union or
18 savings institution. For purposes of this subsection, "pre-need funds" means all money
19 paid during a person's lifetime to a cemetery ~~or~~, crematory or alkaline hydrolysis facility
20 or natural organic reduction facility by that person or by another person on that person's
21 behalf under an agreement that services will be performed or property will be delivered in
22 connection with the disposition of that person's body after that person's death.

23 **Sec. 6. 13 MRSA §1264, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 474, §1, is amended to
24 read:

25 **3. Services and property covered.** This section applies to cemetery ~~or~~, crematory,
26 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction services such as cremation fees, grave
27 opening and closing charges and inscription of death dates. This section does not apply to
28 the sale of cemetery lots or plots, monuments and memorials, garden crypts, lawn crypts,
29 mausoleum crypts, cremation urns and niches, vaults, liners and similar tangible personal
30 property if title to and physical possession of the specific property has passed to the buyer.
31 Any funds expended to purchase tangible personal property when that personal property is
32 held by the payee until the time of need are not considered funds that must be placed in the
33 trust account.

34 **Sec. 7. 13 MRSA §1265**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 474, §1, is amended to read:

35 **§1265. Tangible personal property**

36 Upon written request and payment of any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, a
37 cemetery ~~or~~, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility
38 shall deliver to a person, the person's attorney-in-fact or the person's personal representative
39 any item of tangible personal property purchased by that person but remaining in the
40 possession of the cemetery ~~or~~, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic
41 reduction facility.

42 **Sec. 8. 13 MRSA §1266**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 474, §1, is amended to read:

43 **§1266. Solicitation of cemetery or crematory services or property**

1 Uninvited telephone or door-to-door solicitations for crematory ~~or~~, cemetery, alkaline
2 hydrolysis or natural organic reduction services or property are prohibited. This section
3 may not be construed to limit the raising of funds for capital improvements as long as those
4 funds are not raised through the purchase of cemetery ~~or~~, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis
5 facility or natural organic reduction facility services or property. Uninvited solicitations
6 may not be construed to include solicitations resulting from uninvited good-faith personal
7 referrals from individuals purchasing services or property from a cemetery ~~or~~, crematory,
8 alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility.

9 **Sec. 9. 13 MRSA §1303, 2nd ¶** is amended to read:

10 Every such cemetery ~~shall~~ must be located in accordance with statutes already in force
11 and effect, and only after consent for such location has been obtained from the municipality
12 or other political subdivision where the same is proposed to be located, as well as from the
13 ~~Bureau of Health~~ Department of Health and Human Services. ~~No~~ A cemetery, community
14 mausoleum, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility or
15 columbarium hereafter established ~~shall~~ may not be maintained or operated for the purpose
16 of private profit or gain, either directly or indirectly, to any director, officer or member of
17 the cemetery association or other agency owning, maintaining or operating the same, or of
18 any holding company or development company employed to develop, build and dispose of
19 the same. A cemetery lawfully established prior to July 24, 1937 may continue to be
20 owned, maintained and operated under the form of organization adopted therefor. Any
21 corporation organized prior to July 24, 1937 ~~which~~ that is authorized or empowered to own,
22 construct, maintain or operate cemeteries or burial grounds may lawfully own, construct,
23 maintain or operate mausoleums, crematories or columbaria in connection therewith, in
24 accordance with the laws existing and effective up to the time of July 24, 1937.

25 **Sec. 10. 13 MRSA §1304** is amended to read:

26 **§1304. Sales for speculation or investment**

27 The sale of cemetery lots and plots, or the sale of crypts in a community mausoleum or
28 niches in a columbarium for speculative or financial investment purposes, or the
29 conveyance of any portion of a cemetery already dedicated to burial purposes as security
30 for debt, is prohibited. Every such conveyance, whether made by a person or by a cemetery
31 association, or by a company or association owning and operating a community
32 mausoleum, crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility or
33 columbarium, or by any holding, development or subsidiary company, ~~shall be~~ is void and
34 of no effect. Whoever makes or attempts to make a sale or conveyance contrary to this
35 section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a misdemeanor and must be punished as provided in section
36 1035.

37 **Sec. 11. 13 MRSA §1341, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 421, §2, is further
38 amended to read:

39 **1. Mausoleum, crematory or other structure.** ~~A~~ Except for an alkaline hydrolysis
40 facility or natural organic reduction facility, ~~a~~ community mausoleum, community
41 crematory, or other community structure that holds or contains dead human bodies may
42 ~~only~~ be erected only in a cemetery that is at least 20 acres in size and has been in existence
43 and used for burial for at least 2 years preceding the erection of the structure.

1 **Sec. 12. 13 MRSA §1341, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 620, §1, is amended
2 to read:

3 **2. Columbarium.** A columbarium that holds or contains the ~~eremated~~ remains of
4 dead human bodies that have been cremated or subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural
5 organic reduction may ~~only~~ be erected only in a cemetery that is at least 5 acres in size and
6 has been in existence and used for burial for at least 2 years preceding the erection of the
7 structure.

8 **Sec. 13. 22 MRSA §2841-A** is enacted to read:

9 **§2841-A. Definitions**

10 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
11 have the following meanings.

12 **1. Alkaline hydrolysis.** "Alkaline hydrolysis" means the reduction of human remains
13 to bone fragments and essential elements in a licensed alkaline hydrolysis facility using
14 heat, pressure, water and base chemical agents.

15 **2. Alkaline hydrolysis facility.** "Alkaline hydrolysis facility" means a building or
16 structure or a room or other space in a building or structure containing one or more
17 hydrolysis vessels to be used for alkaline hydrolysis.

18 **3. Natural organic reduction.** "Natural organic reduction" means the contained
19 accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

20 **4. Natural organic reduction facility.** "Natural organic reduction facility" means a
21 building or structure or a room or other space in a building or structure or real property
22 where natural organic reduction is facilitated and occurs.

23 **Sec. 14. 22 MRSA §2843, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 601, §27, is further
24 amended to read:

25 Except as authorized by the department, a dead human body may not be buried,
26 cremated, subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction or otherwise
27 disposed of or removed from the State until a funeral director or other authorized person in
28 charge of the disposition of the dead human body or its removal from the State has obtained
29 a permit from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk of the municipality where
30 death occurred or where the establishment of a funeral director having custody of the dead
31 human body is located as specified by department rule. The permit is sufficient authority
32 for final disposition in any place where dead human bodies are disposed of in this State, as
33 long as the requirements of Title 32, ~~section~~ sections 1405 and 1405-B are met in
34 appropriate cases. The permit may not be issued to anyone other than a funeral director
35 until the state registrar or the clerk of the municipality receives a medical certificate that
36 has been signed by a physician or a medical examiner that indicates that the physician or
37 medical examiner has personally examined the body after death. A permit must also be
38 issued if a nurse practitioner or physician assistant has signed the medical certificate
39 indicating that the nurse practitioner or physician assistant has knowledge of the deceased's
40 recent medical condition or was in charge of the deceased's care and that the nurse
41 practitioner or physician assistant has personally examined the body after death. The
42 authorized person may transport a dead human body only upon receipt of this permit.

1 **Sec. 15. 22 MRSA §2843, 2nd ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 601, §27, is further
2 amended to read:

3 The State Registrar of Vital Statistics or a municipal clerk may issue a permit for final
4 disposition by cremation, burial at sea, use by medical science, alkaline hydrolysis, natural
5 organic reduction or removal from the State only upon receipt of a certificate of release by
6 a duly appointed medical examiner as specified in Title 32, section 1405 or 1405-B.

7 **Sec. 16. 22 MRSA §2843, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 20, §1, is further
8 amended to read:

9 **3. Permit for burial.** The person in charge of each burying ground ~~or~~, crematory,
10 alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility in this State shall endorse,
11 and provide the date the body was disposed of on, each such permit with which that person
12 is presented, and return it to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or to the clerk of the
13 municipality in which such burying ground ~~or~~ crematory or facility is located within 7
14 days after the date of disposition. If there is no person in charge of the burying ground, an
15 official of the municipality in which the burying ground is located shall endorse, and
16 provide the date the body was disposed of on, each such permit, and present it to the State
17 Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk of the municipality. The funeral director or
18 authorized person shall present a copy of each permit, after endorsement, to the State
19 Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk of the municipality where death occurred and to the
20 clerk who issued the permit.

21 **Sec. 17. 22 MRSA §2843, sub-§3-A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 257, §1, is further
22 amended to read:

23 **3-A. Authorization for burial of cremated or other remains in public burying**
24 **ground.** The State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall provide an authorization to be used
25 for the purposes of this subsection. If ~~cremated~~ human remains that have been cremated or
26 subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction are buried in a public burying
27 ground in the State, the person in charge of the public burying ground shall endorse and
28 record the date the ~~cremated~~ remains were buried on an authorization for the remains and
29 return the authorization to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or to the clerk of the
30 municipality in which the public burying ground is located within 7 days after the ~~cremated~~
31 remains were buried. If there is no person in charge of the public burying ground, an
32 official of the municipality in which the public burying ground is located shall endorse and
33 record the date the ~~cremated~~ remains were buried on the authorization and present the
34 authorization to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk of the municipality. If an
35 authorization is not returned to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics within 7 days after
36 ~~cremated~~ remains were buried, the funeral director or authorized person may present a copy
37 of the authorization, if the authorization has been endorsed, to the State Registrar of Vital
38 Statistics or the clerk of the municipality where death occurred and to the clerk who issued
39 the authorization.

40 For purposes of this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms
41 have the following meanings.

42 A. "Authorization" means the form or electronic process prescribed and furnished by
43 the State Registrar of Vital Statistics for the purpose of recording the consent of an
44 authorized person for the burial or removal of ~~cremated~~ human remains that have been

1 cremated or subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction in a public
2 burying ground as specified by department rule.

3 B. "Burial" means all manner of dispersal or deposit in or on the ground or in a
4 structure.

5 C. "Public burying ground" has the same meaning as in Title 13, section 1101-A,
6 subsection 4.

7 **Sec. 18. 22 MRSA §2843-A, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2017, c. 475,
8 Pt. A, §31, is amended by amending the 4th blocked paragraph to read:

9 The remains or a dead body is considered abandoned if no one takes custody and control
10 of the remains or dead body for a period of 15 days. A funeral director or practitioner of
11 funeral service who has physical possession of abandoned remains or an abandoned dead
12 body may bury ~~or~~, cremate or subject the remains or dead body to alkaline hydrolysis or
13 natural organic reduction. The funeral director or practitioner of funeral service may
14 embalm or refrigerate abandoned remains or an abandoned dead body without
15 authorization. A certificate of abandonment that indicates the means of disposition must
16 be filed in the municipality where the death occurred.

17 **Sec. 19. 22 MRSA §2843-A, sub-§10**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 101, §3, is
18 further amended to read:

19 **10. Funeral director or practitioner of funeral service.** The following provisions
20 apply to the actions and liability of a funeral director or practitioner of funeral service,
21 cemeteries and crematories and their employees.

22 A. If there is a dispute regarding custody and control, a funeral director or practitioner
23 of funeral service may refuse to accept the remains or dead body, inter or otherwise
24 dispose of the remains or dead body or complete funeral arrangements until the funeral
25 director or practitioner of funeral service is provided with a court order under
26 subsection 4 or a written agreement of the person who has custody and control.

27 B. If there is a dispute regarding custody and control, pending a court determination
28 under subsection 4 a funeral director or practitioner of funeral service who has physical
29 possession of the remains or a dead body may embalm or refrigerate and shelter the
30 remains or a dead body and may bill the estate of the subject for those costs, plus
31 attorney's fees and court costs.

32 C. A person who signs a statement of funeral goods and services; or a cremation,
33 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction authorization form or other
34 authorization for disposition of the remains or a dead body is deemed to warrant the
35 truthfulness of the facts set forth in the document, including but not limited to the
36 existence of custody and control and the identity of the subject.

37 D. A funeral director or practitioner of funeral service, cemetery, alkaline hydrolysis
38 facility or natural organic reduction facility or crematory may rely on a statement of
39 funeral goods and services; or a cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic
40 reduction authorization form or other authorization signed by a person who has custody
41 and control of the remains or a dead body and may carry out the instructions provided
42 for in the statement of funeral goods and services or on the form or authorization unless
43 the funeral director or practitioner of funeral service, cemetery, alkaline hydrolysis

1 facility or natural organic reduction facility or crematory knows of objections from
2 another person.

3 E. A funeral director or practitioner of funeral service, cemetery, alkaline hydrolysis
4 or natural organic reduction facility or crematory is not required to independently
5 investigate custody and control of the remains or a dead body or who is next of kin.

6 F. Upon cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction of the remains or
7 dead body, the crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction
8 facility shall prepare a certificate of cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic
9 reduction signed and dated by the person in charge of the cremation, alkaline hydrolysis
10 or natural organic reduction indicating the date of cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or
11 natural organic reduction and the identity of the ~~cremated~~ remains or dead body as
12 identified by the funeral director or practitioner of funeral service or the cremation,
13 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction authorization form, including the
14 deceased person's full name, date and place of death, gender and veteran status. The
15 crematory, alkaline hydrolysis facility or natural organic reduction facility shall
16 provide the certificate of cremation, alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction
17 to the funeral director or practitioner of funeral service or the person who has custody and
18 control of the remains or dead body.

19 **Sec. 20. 22 MRSA §2883, 3rd ¶**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 386, §5, is amended to
20 read:

21 As used in this section, "burial" includes cremation, alkaline hydrolysis as defined in
22 section 2841-A, subsection 1 or natural organic reduction as defined in section 2841-A,
23 subsection 3 and burial of the ~~cremated~~ remains of the body.

24 **Sec. 21. 22 MRSA §2900, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

25 D. "Cremated" or "cremation" means subject to the process of cremation, alkaline
26 hydrolysis as defined in section 2841-A, subsection 1 or natural organic reduction as
27 defined in section 2841-A, subsection 3.

28 **Sec. 22. 32 MRSA §1400, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

29 **1-B. Alkaline hydrolysis.** "Alkaline hydrolysis" means the reduction of human
30 remains to bone fragments and essential elements in a licensed alkaline hydrolysis facility
31 using heat, pressure, water and base chemical agents.

32 **Sec. 23. 32 MRSA §1400, sub-§1-C** is enacted to read:

33 **1-C. Alkaline hydrolysis facility.** "Alkaline hydrolysis facility" means a building or
34 structure or a room or other space in a building or structure containing one or more
35 hydrolysis vessels to be used for alkaline hydrolysis.

36 **Sec. 24. 32 MRSA §1400, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

37 **4-A. Natural organic reduction.** "Natural organic reduction" means the contained
38 accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.

39 **Sec. 25. 32 MRSA §1400, sub-§4-B** is enacted to read:

1 **4-B. Natural organic reduction facility.** "Natural organic reduction facility" means
2 a building or structure or a room or other space in a building or structure or real property
3 where natural organic reduction is facilitated and occurs.

4 **Sec. 26. 32 MRSA §1405-B** is enacted to read:

5 **§1405-B. Alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction**

6 A person, firm or corporation within the State, after obtaining a license from and paying
7 a license fee to the Department of Health and Human Services may establish and maintain
8 suitable buildings and appliances for subjecting the bodies of the dead to alkaline
9 hydrolysis or natural organic reduction and, subject to the rules of the department, may
10 subject to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction such bodies and dispose of the
11 remains of the same. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules
12 adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter
13 375, subchapter 2-A.

14 The body of a deceased person may not be subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural
15 organic reduction within 48 hours after death unless the person died of a contagious or
16 infectious disease, and in no event may the body of a deceased person be subjected to
17 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction until the person, firm or corporation in
18 charge of the disposition has received a certificate from a duly appointed medical examiner
19 or medicolegal death investigator appointed pursuant to Title 22, section 3023-A that the
20 medical examiner or medicolegal death investigator has made personal inquiry into the
21 cause and manner of death and is satisfied that further examination or judicial inquiry
22 concerning the cause and manner of death is not necessary. This certificate, a certified
23 copy of the death certificate and a burial transit permit when presented by the authorized
24 person as defined in Title 22, section 2846 is sufficient authority for the body to be
25 subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction, and the person, firm or
26 corporation in charge of the disposition may not refuse to subject the body to alkaline
27 hydrolysis or natural organic reduction or otherwise dispose of the body solely because
28 these documents are presented by such an authorized person. The certificate must be
29 retained by the person, firm or corporation in charge of subjecting the body to alkaline
30 hydrolysis or natural organic reduction or disposition for a period of 15 years. For the
31 certificate, the medical examiner must receive a fee of \$25 payable by the person requesting
32 the certificate. This fee may be waived at the discretion of the Chief Medical Examiner.

33 Human remains may not be removed, transported or shipped to an alkaline hydrolysis
34 facility or natural organic reduction facility unless encased in a casket or other suitable
35 container. Following alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction, the facility shall label
36 the container of the human remains with the name of the person who was subjected to
37 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction.

38 **Sec. 27. 32 MRSA §1405-C** is enacted to read:

39 **§1405-C. Disposition of remains subjected to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic**
40 **reduction**

41 A funeral director or a practitioner of funeral service who receives remains subjected
42 to alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction or has received remains subjected to
43 alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction prior to the effective date of this section

1 may dispose of those remains in accordance with Title 13, section 1032, if the following
2 conditions have been met:

3 **1. Remains not claimed for one year.** The remains subjected to alkaline hydrolysis
4 or natural organic reduction have not been claimed after a time period of at least one year
5 from the time of completion of the alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction; and

6 **2. Notice.** The funeral director or practitioner of funeral service has sent notice by
7 certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the person who
8 authorized the alkaline hydrolysis or natural organic reduction at least 60 days prior to
9 disposal.

10 **Sec. 28. 32 MRSA §1455-B, sub-§6,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. J, §7, is
11 amended to read:

12 **6. Unauthorized commission; crematory, mausoleum, facility for alkaline**
13 **hydrolysis or natural organic reduction or cemetery.** Solicitation or acceptance by a
14 licensee of any commission, bonus or rebate in consideration of recommending or causing
15 human remains to be disposed of in any crematory, mausoleum, alkaline hydrolysis facility,
16 natural organic reduction facility or cemetery;

17 SUMMARY

18 This bill allows for the treatment of human remains by alkaline hydrolysis or natural
19 organic reduction as an alternate to burial in a casket or cremation. Alkaline hydrolysis is
20 the reduction of human remains to bone fragments and essential elements in a licensed
21 alkaline hydrolysis facility using heat, pressure, water and base chemical agents and natural
22 organic reduction is the contained accelerated conversion of human remains to soil.