



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

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DATE: March 11, 2020

TIME: 3:51 PM

WSR 20-07-055

Agency: State Board of Health

Subject of possible rule making: Chapter 246-500 WAC, Handling of Human Remains. The State Board of Health is considering rules regarding final disposition of human remains through alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction. The board may also consider other updates as needed.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 43.20.050(2)(f)

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Chapter 246-500 WAC, Handling of Human Remains was last updated in 2006. During the 2019 legislative session, the Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5001, Concerning human remains (Chapter 432, Laws of 2019), legalizing two new methods for human disposition: alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction. The new law takes effect May 1, 2020. The State Board of Health (Board) is undertaking rulemaking to further review questions related to the new methods of disposition and to consider possible revisions to chapter 246-500 WAC to protect public health and safety. The Board will coordinate and consult with state agencies and other interested stakeholders on this rulemaking project.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: The Washington State Department of Licensing's Funeral and Cemetery Board, Department of Health, and Department of Ecology will be invited to participate in the rulemaking to assure coordination.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) The Board will use a collaborative rule-making approach. The Board will work with partner health and natural resource agencies in drafting the rule and will convene a stakeholder group for additional input. The Board will keep stakeholders and interested parties informed of the rulemaking through email, the Board's listserv and rule-making web site, and notices in the Washington State Register. Stakeholders and interested parties will have opportunity to provide comments throughout the rule-making process, including informal review of the draft rule, formal review and comment on the proposed rule, and at the Board's public hearing


Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Caitlin Lang-Perez
 Address: PO Box 47990 Olympia, WA 98504-7990
 Phone: (360) 628-7342
 Fax: (360) 236-4088
 TTY: 711
 Email: caitlin.lang@sboh.wa.gov
 Web site: sboh.wa.gov
 Other:

(If necessary)

Name:
 Address:
 Phone:
 Fax:
 TTY:
 Email:
 Web site:
 Other:

Additional comments:

Date: 03/09/2020	Signature: 
Name: Michelle A. Davis	
Title: Executive Director	