



# Changes to Chapter 246-500 WAC

## Handling of Human Remains

June 12, 2024

Shay Bauman – Policy Advisor

WASHINGTON STATE   
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

# Substitute House Bill 1974

## Signed by the Governor March 13

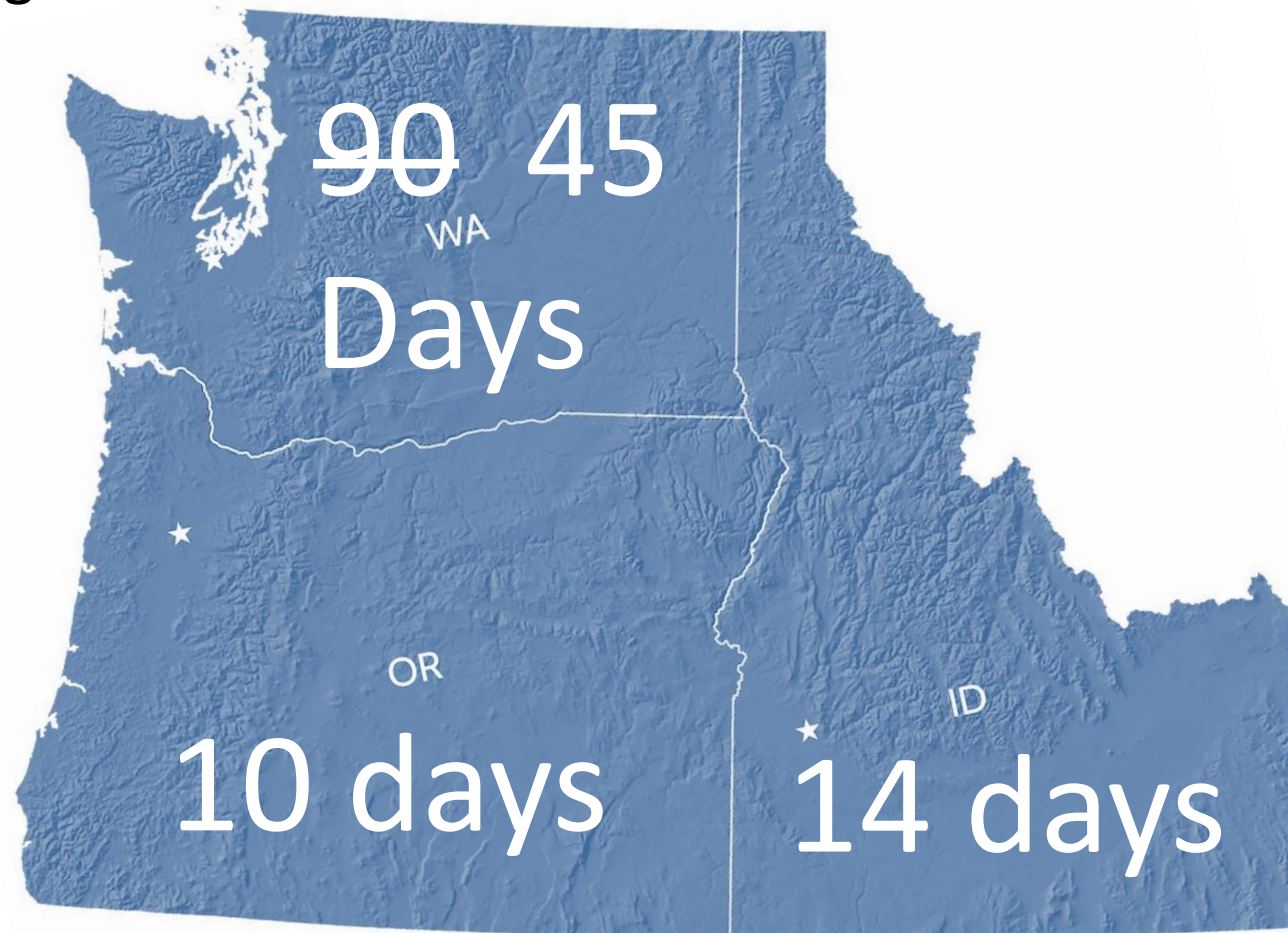
■ Reduces holding period from 90 to 45 days

■ Improvements in technology used to identify next of kin

■ Industry feedback regarding the speed of decomposition

■ Capacity of small counties

■ Adds Counties



Mandated holding period of Washington and neighboring states



# Proposed Changes

The local registrar or the Department of Health may issue a burial-transit permit for the disposition of:

- human remains reduced through alkaline hydrolysis (050)
- cremated human remains (053)
- human remains reduced through natural organic reduction (055)

which have been in the lawful possession of any person, firm, corporation, county, or association for a period of ~~((ninety))~~ 45 days or more.

# Public Comments

■ 3 Supporting, 0 Opposing

■ Casey Husseman  
Executive Director, People's Memorial Association

■ Hayley Thompson  
President, Washington Association of Coroners  
and Medical Examiners

■ Timothy Grisham  
Deputy Director, Washington Association of  
County Officials



# Recommendation

Adopt the proposed amendments to chapter 246-500 WAC, Handling of Human Remains, as published in WSR 24-10-094, and direct staff to file a CR-103, Order of Adoption, and establish an effective date for the rules.



# THANK YOU

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