

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0029

Burials for indigent persons.

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

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to indigent person burial expenses;  
2 providing for reimbursement of 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:*

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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

14 (c) Each board of county commissioners shall provide  
15 for the burial of the human remains of any deceased person  
16 not receiving personal opportunities with employment

1 responsibilities (POWER) assistance, supplemental security  
2 income or Medicaid under the Wyoming Public Assistance and  
3 Social Services Act at the time of death and without  
4 sufficient means in his own estate or other resources to  
5 provide burial or cremation. Each board shall account for  
6 the county expenses incurred under this subsection during a  
7 fiscal biennium. By August 1 of each even numbered year, a  
8 county may request reimbursement by the state treasurer for  
9 the expenses incurred under this subsection for the  
10 preceding fiscal biennium. The state treasurer shall  
11 reimburse the expenses in accordance with W.S. 35-1-428(c).  
12

13 **35-1-428. Fees for copies and searches; surcharges.**  
14

15 (c) In addition to the fees imposed by department of  
16 health rules under subsection (a) of this section and the  
17 surcharges imposed under subsection (b) of this section,  
18 the department shall collect a surcharge of five dollars  
19 (\$5.00) for each copy of a death certificate issued  
20 pursuant to this article. Revenues collected from the  
21 surcharge imposed under this subsection shall be deposited  
22 by the state treasurer in the indigent persons burial  
23 account, which is hereby created. All funds within the

1 account shall be invested by the state treasurer and all  
2 investment earnings from the account shall be deposited in  
3 the account. Subject to legislative appropriation, the  
4 state treasurer shall disperse funds within the account to  
5 counties that made a request for reimbursement under W.S.  
6 18-3-504(c) and to the department of family services for  
7 expenses incurred under W.S. 42-2-103(c). If a legislative  
8 appropriation is insufficient to reimburse all  
9 reimbursement requests, the state treasurer shall disperse  
10 the available funds so that each county that made a  
11 reimbursement request and the department of family services  
12 receive equal percentage reimbursements.

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14       **Section 2.** This act shall only apply to expenses  
15 incurred under W.S. 18-3-504(c) and 42-2-103(c) on or after  
16 the effective date of this act.

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

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(END)