

**Subject** Requirements for green burials

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## Overview

This bill establishes requirements for the holding and handling of human bodies awaiting green burial and the spreading of ashes and establishes requirements for green burials in public and private cemeteries that allow green burial or the spreading of ashes. A green burial is a burial method in which the body is not embalmed or is embalmed with nontoxic substances; a biodegradable casket or shroud is used; and no vault or outer container is used. This bill also increases the percentage of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots that must be deposited in the cemetery's care and improvement fund.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Green burial.</b> Adds subd. 42 to § 149A.02. Defines green burial for chapter 149A (mortuary science and disposition of dead bodies).
2	<b>Green burial.</b> Adds § 149A.958. Requires a building with a holding facility for dead human bodies awaiting green burial to comply with applicable building codes, zoning laws, and environmental standards; permit access only to authorized personnel; preserve the dignity of human remains; and protect the health and safety of building personnel. Requires employees handling these bodies to use universal precautions and take other precautions to minimize the risk of transmitting communicable diseases from the bodies. Requires a dead human body that is not embalmed to be refrigerated for up to six days or packed in dry ice for up to four days.
3	<b>Required payments.</b> Amends § 306.37, subd. 1. Requires 25 percent (rather than 20 percent as in current law) of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots to be deposited in the cemetery's

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>
	care and improvement fund. Income from the fund is used for care, maintenance, and improvements to the cemetery.
4	<b>Percentage of sale of lots and mausoleums paid into fund; other additions to fund.</b> Amends § 306.78. Requires 25 percent (rather than 20 percent as in current law) of the proceeds from the sale of cemetery lots to be deposited in the cemetery's permanent care and improvement fund.
5	<b>Green burials in public cemeteries.</b> Adds § 306.991. Defines the following terms for this section: drainage system, green burial, natural watercourse, ordinary high-water level, and water supply well. Requires a public cemetery governed by chapter 306 that allows green burials to comply with the following requirements regarding green burials: plot location requirements regarding setbacks from the property line, not being located in standing water or in locations that may have standing water or that may flood, and being located certain distances from water sources; and complying with certain burial depths and burial densities.
6	<b>Ash spreading.</b> Adds § 306.992. Provides a public cemetery governed by chapter 306 that allows the spreading of ashes must designate a location in the cemetery for ashes spreading.
7	<b>Green burials in private cemeteries.</b> Adds § 307.14. Defines the following terms for this section: drainage system, green burial, natural watercourse, ordinary high-water level, water supply well. Requires a person owning a private cemetery governed by chapter 307 that allows green burials to comply with the following requirements regarding green burials: plot location requirements regarding setbacks from the property line, not being located in standing water or in locations that may have standing water or that may flood, and being located certain distances from water sources; and complying with certain burial depths and burial densities.
8	<b>Ash spreading.</b> Adds § 307.15. Provides a person who owns a cemetery governed by chapter 307 that allows the spreading of ashes must designate a location in the cemetery for ashes spreading.



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