



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7173

LCO No. 5194



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING TERRAMATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) (1) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (A) "Cemetery corporation" means any corporation formed for the
4 disposal or burial of deceased human beings, by cremation, natural
5 organic reduction or in a grave, mausoleum, vault, columbarium or
6 other receptacle but does not include a family cemetery corporation or
7 a private cemetery corporation. "Cemetery corporation" includes any
8 cemetery, crematory or funeral home;

9 (B) "Holding facility" or "temporary storage area" means any area that
10 (i) is designated for the retention of human remains prior to cremation
11 or natural organic reduction; (ii) complies with all applicable public
12 health laws; (iii) preserves the health and safety of the crematory or
13 natural organic reduction facility personnel; and (iv) is secure from
14 access by anyone other than authorized persons, with the interior of
15 such area not visible from any area accessible to the general public;

16 (C) "Natural organic reduction permit" means the permit required by
17 the Commissioner of Public Health for disposition of the remains of a
18 deceased human being by natural organic reduction;

19 (D) "Natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated
20 conversion of human remains to soil; and

21 (E) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a structure, room or
22 other space in a building or real property where natural organic
23 reduction of a human body occurs.

24 (2) Any cemetery corporation that operates a natural organic
25 reduction facility shall have the following duties and obligations: (A)
26 Each natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained in a clean,
27 orderly and sanitary manner, with adequate ventilation and shall have
28 a temporary storage area available to store the remains of deceased
29 persons pending disposition by natural organic reduction, the interior
30 of which shall not be accessible to the general public; (B) entrances and
31 windows of any natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained
32 at all times in order to secure privacy, including the tight closure of
33 doors, the covering of windows and the provision of locked and secured
34 entrances when not actively attended by authorized natural reduction
35 facility personnel; (C) the natural organic reduction process shall be
36 conducted in privacy and no person except authorized persons of such
37 facility shall be admitted into the reduction area, holding facility or
38 temporary storage facility while the remains of deceased human beings
39 are being naturally organically reduced; and (D) authorized persons, on
40 admittance, shall comply with all rules of the cemetery corporation and
41 not infringe upon the privacy of the remains of any deceased person.
42 For the purposes of this section, "authorized persons" includes (i)
43 licensed, registered funeral directors, registered residents and enrolled
44 students of mortuary science; (ii) officers and trustees of the cemetery
45 corporation; (iii) authorized employees and authorized agents of the
46 cemetery corporation; (iv) public officers acting in the discharge of their
47 duties; (v) authorized instructors of funeral directing schools; (vi)

48 licensed physicians or nurses; and (vii) members of the immediate
49 family of the deceased person and authorized agents and designated
50 representatives of such immediate family members.

51 (b) No natural organic reduction facility shall naturally organically
52 reduce the remains of any deceased human being without the
53 accompanying natural organic reduction permit, required and
54 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, which shall constitute
55 presumptive evidence of the identity of the deceased person's remains.
56 A natural organic reduction authorization form, prescribed by the
57 Commissioner of Public Health, shall accompany such permit and shall
58 be signed by the immediate family member or authorizing agent who
59 shall attest to the permission for the natural organic reduction of the
60 deceased person and disclose to the natural organic reduction facility
61 whether the body of such deceased person contains a battery, battery
62 pack, power cell, radioactive implant or radioactive device or whether
63 any such material was removed from the deceased person's body prior
64 to the natural organic reduction process.

65 (c) The natural organic reduction process shall not commence until
66 reasonable confirmation of the identity of the deceased person is made.
67 Such proof may be in the form of, but not limited to, a signed affidavit
68 from a licensed physician, a member of the immediate family of the
69 deceased person, an authorizing agent or a court order from the
70 Superior Court. The natural organic reduction facility shall ensure that
71 the identification established by the natural organic reduction permit
72 accompanies the remains of the deceased person during the natural
73 organic reduction process and until the identity of the deceased person
74 is accurately and legibly inscribed on the container in which the remains
75 of the deceased person are temporarily placed.

76 (d) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall be delivered to the
77 natural organic reduction facility in an alternative container or in
78 external wrappings sufficient to contain the remains and that is
79 designed to fully decompose in the natural reduction process. Such

80 alternative container or external wrappings shall not be opened after
81 delivery of the deceased person's body to the natural organic reduction
82 facility unless there exists good cause to: (A) Confirm the identity of the
83 deceased person, (B) ensure that no material is enclosed that might
84 cause injury to employees of the natural organic reduction facility or
85 damage to property of the natural organic reduction facility, or (C) upon
86 reasonable demand by members of the immediate family or the
87 authorized agent of such immediate family.

88 (2) In any instance in which such alternative container or wrappings
89 are opened after delivery of the deceased person to the natural organic
90 reduction facility, such action shall only be conducted by the licensed
91 funeral director or registered person who delivers the remains of the
92 deceased person. A record shall be made by such natural organic
93 reduction facility, at the time of any such opening, that includes the
94 reason for such action, the signature of the person authorizing such
95 opening and the names of any person who opens such container or
96 wrappings and the witness to such opening. Any such record shall be
97 retained in the permanent files of the natural organic reduction facility.
98 Any such opening of such container or wrappings shall be conducted in
99 the presence of a witness and shall comply with any rule or regulation
100 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health that is intended to
101 protect the integrity of the deceased person's remains and the health and
102 safety of natural organic reduction facility personnel.

103 (e) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be delivered to
104 a natural organic reduction facility in a casket that is not to be naturally
105 organically reduced with the deceased person, written notice of such
106 fact shall be made by the person responsible for the funeral
107 arrangements of the deceased person to the natural organic reduction
108 facility. Such written notice shall indicate that prior to natural organic
109 reduction, the remains of the deceased person are to be transferred to an
110 alternative container. The natural organic reduction facility shall retain
111 such written notice in the permanent records of such facility.

112 (f) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall not be removed from
113 the casket, alternative container or external wrappings in which they
114 were delivered to the natural organic reduction facility unless a signed
115 authorization is provided by the person responsible for making funeral
116 arrangements for such deceased person or by a public officer
117 discharging his or her statutory duty. Such signed authorization shall
118 be retained in the permanent records of such natural organic reduction
119 facility.

120 (2) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be transferred
121 to an alternative container, such transfer shall be conducted in privacy
122 and with dignity and respect for such remains by the licensed funeral
123 director or registered person who delivered such remains. Such transfer
124 shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Department of Public
125 Health that are intended to protect the dignity of the deceased person's
126 remains and the health and safety of the natural organic reduction
127 facility personnel.

128 (g) No person shall commingle or place the naturally organically
129 reduced remains of more than one deceased person in a reduction
130 container at any one time except upon provision of a signed
131 authorization provided by the person responsible for making the
132 funeral arrangements for the deceased person and the signed approval
133 of the natural organic reduction facility. Such authorizations and
134 approvals shall be retained in the permanent records of the natural
135 organic reduction facility.

136 (h) (1) Upon the completion of the natural organic reduction of the
137 remains of a deceased person, the interior of the natural organic
138 reduction container shall be thoroughly swept or otherwise cleaned so
139 as to render the natural organic reduction container reasonably free of
140 all matter. The contents of such reduction container shall be placed into
141 an individual container and not commingled with other remains. The
142 natural organic reduction permit shall be attached to the individual
143 container in preparation for final processing.

144 (2) Use of a magnet and sieve, or other appropriate method of
145 separation, may be used to divide such remains from unrecognizable
146 incidental or foreign material.

147 (3) Any incidental or foreign material of the natural organic reduction
148 process shall be disposed of in a safe manner in compliance with all
149 sanitary rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Public Health for
150 such by-products.

151 (4) Such remains shall be pulverized until no single fragment is
152 recognizable as skeletal tissue and such pulverized remains shall be
153 transferred to a container or to multiple containers, if so requested in
154 writing by the person responsible for making the funeral arrangements
155 for the deceased person. Any such container shall have inside
156 dimensions of suitable size to contain such naturally organically
157 reduced remains and shall be accurately and legibly labeled with the
158 name of the person whose remains are contained therein, in a manner
159 as prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

160 (i) (1) Upon completion of the natural organic reduction process, the
161 cemetery corporation shall notify the person responsible for making the
162 funeral arrangements for such deceased person that the natural organic
163 reduction process is complete and that the remains are prepared to be
164 disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The
165 person responsible for making the funeral arrangements for such
166 deceased person shall be responsible for the final disposition of such
167 remains. Such remains shall be disposed of through the scattering of
168 such remains in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery or,
169 by prior authorization by the cemetery corporation, by placing such
170 remains in a grave, crypt or niche, or retention of such remains,
171 pursuant to prior authorization, by the person responsible for making
172 the funeral arrangements for such deceased person. Such remains shall
173 not be recoverable once they are scattered or interred. No such remains
174 shall be utilized or sold for any purpose related to the development of
175 direct-to-consumer food sales.

176 (2) If, after a period of more than sixty days after the date of the
177 completion of the natural organic reduction process, the person
178 responsible for the funeral arrangements for the deceased person has
179 not instructed the cemetery corporation to arrange for the final
180 disposition of the remains or claimed the remains, the cemetery
181 corporation may dispose of such remains in any manner prescribed by
182 this subsection. The cemetery corporation shall keep a permanent
183 record identifying the site of final disposition for any such remains. The
184 person responsible for the funeral arrangements for such deceased
185 person shall be responsible for reimbursing the cemetery corporation
186 for all reasonable expenses incurred for the disposing of such remains
187 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. After the
188 disposition of such remains, the cemetery corporation shall be
189 discharged from any legal obligation or liability concerning the remains.

190 (3) Unless the person responsible for making the funeral
191 arrangements for such deceased person provides written permission, no
192 person shall place remains of more than one person in the same
193 temporary container or urn.

194 (j) Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility who is
195 responsible for conducting the daily operations of the natural organic
196 reduction process shall be certified by an organization approved by the
197 Commissioner of Public Health. Proof of such certification shall be
198 posted in the natural organic reduction facility and available for
199 inspection at any time. Any new employee of a natural organic
200 reduction facility required to be certified pursuant to this subsection
201 shall be certified not later than one year after commencement of such
202 employment. Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility
203 required to be certified pursuant to this subsection and employed by
204 such facility prior to the effective date of this section shall be certified
205 not later than one year after such effective date. Such certification shall
206 be completed every five years from the date of such certification.

207 (k) (1) Any cemetery corporation that seeks approval to operate a

208 natural organic reduction facility shall submit for approval by the
209 Commissioner of Public Health the following:

210 (A) A list of the directors, employees and certificate holders of the
211 cemetery corporation;

212 (B) A certified survey of the site and location where such facility will
213 be located;

214 (C) A business plan for the operation of the natural organic reduction
215 facility that includes, but is not limited to, the number of expected
216 natural organic reductions per year, the number of natural organic
217 reduction units to be used, all manufacturing, capital costs and
218 financing, the anticipated number of employees, the types of services
219 provided and pricing thereof;

220 (D) A description of the impact of the proposed natural organic
221 reduction facility on other natural organic reduction facilities, if any,
222 within the county where such facility is located;

223 (E) Plans, designs and costs of any structures to be erected or
224 retrofitted for the natural organic reduction facility use;

225 (F) A description of any other approvals or permits required by state
226 law or municipal ordinance; and

227 (G) A one-hundred-fifty-dollar inspection fee.

228 (2) The commissioner shall not approve any natural organic
229 reduction facility that does not have all other approvals or permits. The
230 commissioner may request from such applicant any additional
231 information or documentation and technical assistance deemed
232 necessary to review such information. Such information shall not be
233 deemed complete until any requested additional information has been
234 received by the commissioner. The commissioner shall approve or deny
235 the proposed natural organic reduction facility not later than ninety
236 days after completion of the submission of all information by written

237 notice. If the commissioner denies any application for such a facility,
238 such written notice shall state the reasons for such denial.

239 (l) The Department of Public Health shall have authority to take all
240 necessary measures to secure and protect the integrity of any human
241 remains that are subject to such natural organic reduction processes
242 when any facility that conducts such processes discontinues operations
243 or provides notice to such department of an intent to discontinue such
244 operations.

245 (m) Not later than October 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Public
246 Health shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
247 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this
248 section. Such regulations shall take effect not later than January 1, 2027.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize the use of terramation for the final disposition of human remains.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]