

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 859  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/03

Short Title: Board of Mortuary Science. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 7, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ELIMINATE STATEWIDE VOTING TO ELECT MEMBERS OF THE  
BOARD OF MORTUARY SCIENCE AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW PROCESS  
WHEREBY MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED TO SERVE ON THE BOARD.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 90-210.18 is repealed.

**SECTION 2.** Article 13A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended  
by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 90-210.18A. Board of Mortuary Science created; qualifications; vacancies;  
removal.**

(a) The General Assembly declares that the practice of funeral service affects the public health, safety, and welfare and is subject to regulation and control in the public interest. The public interest requires that only qualified persons be permitted to practice funeral service in North Carolina and that the profession merit the confidence of the public. This Article shall be liberally construed to accomplish these ends.

(b) The North Carolina Board of Mortuary Science is created and shall regulate the practice of funeral service in this State. The Board shall have nine members as follows:

(1) Seven members, appointed by the Governor, who shall hold either a funeral director's license or a funeral service license. In appointing members, the Governor may accept five recommendations from the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association, Inc., and two recommendations from the Funeral Directors & Morticians Association of North Carolina, Inc. However, the Governor shall have the authority to reject a recommendation and request another recommendation from that association.

(2) One member appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, who is a member of the general public.

1           (3) One member appointed by the General Assembly, upon the  
2           recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who  
3           is a member of the general public.

4           Members of the Board shall serve staggered three-year terms, ending on June 30 of  
5           the last year of the term or when a successor has been duly appointed, whichever is  
6           later. No member may serve more than two complete consecutive terms.

7           (c) Qualifications. – Members appointed by the Governor shall hold a license  
8           issued by the Board and shall be engaged in full-time employment in this State in a  
9           practice authorized by his or her license. Public members shall not be licensed under  
10          this Article or employed by a person who is licensed under this Article.

11          (d) Vacancies. – A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
12          appointment, except that all unexpired terms of Board members appointed by the  
13          General Assembly shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122. Appointees to fill  
14          vacancies shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and until their successors  
15          have been duly appointed and qualified.

16          (e) Removal. – The Board may remove any of its members for neglect of duty,  
17          incompetence, or unprofessional conduct. A member subject to disciplinary proceedings  
18          as a licensee shall be disqualified from participating in the official business of the Board  
19          until the charges have been resolved."

20          **SECTION 3.** The two members most recently elected to the Board of  
21 Mortuary Science and serving on the Board on the effective date of this act shall  
22 complete their current terms. To establish staggered terms of the members of the Board  
23 of Mortuary Science pursuant to G.S. 90-210.18A(b), three members recommended by  
24 the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association, Inc., shall serve two-year terms, and  
25 two members recommended by that Association shall serve three-year terms. One  
26 member recommended by the Funeral Directors & Morticians Association of North  
27 Carolina, Inc., shall serve a two-year term, and one member recommended by that  
28 Association shall serve a three-year term. The General Assembly, upon the  
29 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, shall appoint one member  
30 for a one-year term, and the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the  
31 Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall appoint one member for a one-year term.  
32 After the staggered terms have been established, members appointed to the Board  
33 thereafter shall serve three-year terms.

34          **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.