

Introduced: 2/14/67
Referred: Health, Welfare
and Education and Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BANFIELD

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 173

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the international transportation
7 of human remains."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

10 CHAPTER 93. INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION OF HUMAN REMAINS.

11 Sec. 18.93.010. DOCUMENTATION. For international transportation
12 of human remains, the following documents shall be required:

13 (1) an official certificate of cause of death issued by
14 the appropriate local authority;

15 (2) a statement by the person authorized to prepare the
16 remains, certified by an appropriate authority, indicating the manner
17 and method in which the body was prepared and indicating that the
18 coffin contains only the body in question and necessary clothing and
19 packing;

20 (3) a transit permit stating the surname, first name, and
21 age of the deceased person, issued by the competent authority for the
22 place of death, or the place of burial in the case of exhumed human
23 remains; and

24 (4) copies of the documentation required under subsections
25 (1) - (3) of this section shall accompany the shipment of remains.
26 The outside of the coffin shall bear an immovable plaque or other
27 appropriate marking, in a conspicuous place, indicating name, age, and
28 place of final destination of the body.

29 Sec. 18.93.020. HEALTH MEASURES. The human remains shall be

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1 subject to the following measures:

2 (1) thorough washing with an effective disinfectant, disin-
3 fection of all orifices, packing of all orifices with cotton saturated
4 with an effective disinfectant, wrapping in a sheet saturated with an
5 effective disinfectant, and placing in an impervious coffin;

6 (2) proper embalming (arterial and cavity) and placement
7 in an impervious coffin; or

8 (3) proper embalming (arterial and cavity) and encasement
9 in a plastic container which has been sealed by heat or by adhesive
10 materials prior to placement in a nonimpervious coffin.

11 Sec. 18.93.030. SHIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. (a) Human remains pre-
12 pared for international shipment must be placed in an impervious coffin.
13 Where the cause of death was a quarantinable disease, as defined in the
14 International Sanitary Regulations, the human remains must be embalmed
15 (arterial and cavity) and placed in an impervious coffin.

16 (b) The impervious coffin must be hermetically sealed and may be
17 shipped without any other covering (except in the case of shipment by
18 sea), or for protective purposes may be fitted in a wooden box, or one
19 made of other material, so as to prevent movement; or may be wrapped
20 in a specially designed fabric.

21 Sec. 18.93.040. TRANSPORTATION BY LAND, AIR AND SEA. (a) The
22 following regulations shall apply to the transportation by rail:

23 (1) the impervious coffin may be transported in the baggage
24 compartment of a passenger car;

25 (2) each country shall be responsible for fixing the time
26 limit within which the body must be removed at its final destination.

27 (b) In case of transportation by road the impervious coffin must
28 be conveyed preferably on a closed hearse or failing such, in an
29 ordinary closed van (truck) or automobile, placed in such a way as to

1 prevent movement.

2 (c) The impervious coffin may be conveyed also in the baggage
3 compartment of a passenger aircraft or in a cargo aircraft and may
4 be equipped with a vent or safety valve provided that precautions are
5 taken to prevent the escape of liquids or nauseous gases.

6 (d) In case of transportation by sea the impervious coffin, in
7 order to preclude movement, must be packed in an ordinary wooden case,
8 or one made of other material, or may be placed in specially designed
9 fabric container.

10 Sec. 18.93.050. GENERAL PROVISIONS. (a) Regardless of the mode
11 of transportation, wreaths, flowers, and other similar funeral articles
12 may be sent with the coffin only when it is permitted by the provisions
13 in force in the country to which it is being sent.

14 (b) The provisions of this chapter may be reduced either through
15 bilateral agreements or by joint decision in particular cases.

16 (c) The transportation of remains exhumed after the period
17 established in the local provisions in force have elapsed, and the
18 transportation of ashes, shall not be subject to health or other
19 special measures.

20 Sec. 18.93.060. TRANSPORTATION WITHIN 48 HOURS. The transporta-
21 tion of bodies between frontier districts within 48 hours after death
22 shall not be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

23 Sec. 18.93.070. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter

24 (1) "impervious coffin" means any container or box, of
25 whatever material, which can be hermetically sealed and so maintained
26 by plastic or rubber gasket or by metal or similar material which has
27 been soldered or welded.

28 (2) "international transportation of human remains" means
29 the shipment of the body from the country where the death occurred to

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the country of its final destination after either death or disinterment.

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