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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 457

February 2, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Care and Human Services Policy and Oversight

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; changing provisions dealing with mortuary science; amending
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 149A.01, subdivision 3.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 149A.01, subdivision 3, is amended to
1.6 read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Exceptions to licensure.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter,
1.8 nothing in this chapter shall in any way interfere with the duties of:

1.9 (1) an anatomical bequest program located within an accredited school of medicine
1.10 or an accredited college of mortuary science or an organization accredited by the
1.11 American Association of Tissue Banks;

1.12 (2) a person engaged in the performance of duties prescribed by law relating to the
1.13 conditions under which unclaimed dead human bodies are held subject to anatomical study;

1.14 (3) authorized personnel from a licensed ambulance service in the performance
1.15 of their duties;

1.16 (4) licensed medical personnel in the performance of their duties; or

1.17 (5) the coroner or medical examiner in the performance of the duties of their offices.

1.18 (b) This chapter does not apply to or interfere with the recognized customs or rites of
1.19 any culture or recognized religion in the ceremonial washing, dressing, and casketing of
1.20 their dead, to the extent that all other provisions of this chapter are complied with.

1.21 (c) Noncompensated persons with the right to control the dead human body
1.22 may remove a body from the place of death; transport the body; prepare the body for
1.23 disposition, except embalming; or arrange for final disposition of the body, provided that
1.24 all actions are in compliance with this chapter.

2.1 (d) Persons serving internships pursuant to section 149A.20, subdivision 6, or
2.2 students officially registered for a practicum or clinical through a program of mortuary
2.3 science accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education are not required
2.4 to be licensed, provided that the persons or students are registered with the commissioner
2.5 and act under the direct and exclusive supervision of a person holding a current license to
2.6 practice mortuary science in Minnesota.

2.7 (e) Notwithstanding this subdivision, nothing in this section shall be construed to
2.8 prohibit an institution or entity from establishing, implementing, or enforcing a policy that
2.9 permits only persons licensed by the commissioner to remove or cause to be removed a
2.10 dead body or body part from the institution or entity.

2.11 (f) An unlicensed person may arrange for and direct or supervise a memorial service
2.12 after final disposition of the dead human body has taken place. An unlicensed person may
2.13 not take charge of the dead human body, however an unlicensed person may arrange for
2.14 and direct or supervise a memorial service before final disposition of the dead human
2.15 body has taken place.