STATE OF NEW YORK

11146

IN ASSEMBLY

April 24, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. WIEDER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the handling of certain unclaimed bodies

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 4211-a to read as follows:

§ 4211-a. Cadavers; unclaimed; delivery to religious organizations. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section forty-two hundred eleven of this title, and prior to the disposition of a body pursuant to such section, if the body of a deceased person is not claimed as provided in section forty-two hundred two of this article and such person is known to have been of Jewish descent or of Muslim descent, the director or person in charge of any hospital, institution, morgue or other place for bodies of deceased persons not interred or otherwise finally disposed of, and every funeral director, undertaker or other person having in their lawful possession, any body of a deceased person for keeping or burial, shall contact: (a) for persons of Jewish descent: (i) Misaskim, 5805 16th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11204, (718) 854-4548; (ii) Chesed Shel Emes, 1224 52nd St, Brooklyn, NY 11219, (855) 273-2121; and/or (iii) Hebrew Free Burial Association, Inc. 330 7th Avenue, 10th Floor New York, NY 10001, (212) 239-1664; or (b) for persons of Muslim descent: Janazah Community Funeral Services, 5306 3rd Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11220, (646) 427-3885, or any successor organizations, and inquire if the organization is willing to pay for the burial expense of the deceased person, and, if the organization is willing to do so, deliver the body of the deceased person in their possession, charge, custody or control not placed therein by any person, agency or organization for keeping, burial or other lawful disposition to the agreeing organization.

2. No unclaimed human remains shall be buried, cremated, or otherwise finally disposed of unless such remains have first been entered into the

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD15576-02-6

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, or any successor database, in accordance with applicable procedures.

3. The provisions of this section shall not supersede any prior written directives of the deceased person regarding anatomical gifts pursuant to article forty-three of this chapter.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.