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**LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

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**FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.****No. 661****Session of  
1919.**

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**INTRODUCED BY MR. SHAFFER, FEBRUARY 25, 1919.**

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**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITA-  
TION, FEBRUARY 26, 1919.**

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**AN ACT**

Amending section two of the act approved the fourteenth day of May one thousand nine hundred fifteen (Pamphlet Laws five hundred and six) entitled "An act amending and supplementing sections one and two of an act entitled 'An act for the promotion of medical science by the distribution and use of unclaimed human bodies for scientific purposes through a board created for that purpose and to prevent unauthorized uses and traffic in human bodies' approved June thirteenth one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three by providing that the name of said board of distribution shall be Anatomical Board of the State of Pennsylvania by extending its provisions to all persons having charge or control over bodies required to be buried at the public expense by requiring immediate notice of the death of any person required to be buried at the public expense by requiring notice in all cases but providing that there shall

not be delivered to the board created, under the act the bodies of deceased indigent persons where claimed by relatives within twenty-four hours after death for interment at the expense of the claimant or the bodies of honorably discharged soldiers sailors or marines who have served the United States in any war or who were in active service in the militia of the State of Pennsylvania under and in pursuance of any of the proclamations issued by the Governor during the Civil War and not duly mustered into the service of the United States by repealing the provisions as to deceased indigent travelers by providing for the burial at the expense of the county of indigent persons unfit for anatomical purposes upon the certificate of the board or its duly authorized officer or agent that such bodies are unfit for anatomical purposes or are the bodies of soldiers sailors or marines required to be buried at the public expense and that the provisions of this act have been complied with by providing that no warrants for payment of expenses of burial shall be drawn or paid except upon such certificate by providing for the burial of bodies rendered unfit for anatomical purposes by the failure to comply with the provisions of this act at the expense of the person failing to comply with its provisions

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*  
 2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*  
 3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*

1 section two of the act approved the fourteenth day of  
2 May one thousand nine hundred fifteen (Pamphlet Laws  
3 five hundred and six) entitled "An act amending and sup-  
4 plementing sections one and two of an act entitled 'An  
5 act for the promotion of medical science by the distri-  
6 bution and use of unclaimed human bodies for scientific  
7 purposes through a board created for that purpose and  
8 to prevent unauthorized uses and traffic in human bodies'  
9 approved June thirteenth one thousand eight hundred and  
10 eighty-three by providing that the name of said board of  
11 distribution shall be Anatomical Board of the State of  
12 Pennsylvania by extending its provisions to all persons  
13 having charge or control over bodies required to be buried  
14 at the public expense by requiring immediate notice of  
15 the death of any person required to be buried at the  
16 public expense by requiring notice in all cases but pro-  
17 viding that there shall not be delivered to the board  
18 created under the act the bodies of deceased indigent per-  
19 sons where claimed by relatives within twenty-four hours  
20 after death for interment at the expense of the claimant  
21 or the bodies of honorably discharged soldiers sailors or  
22 marines who have served the United States in any war  
23 or who were in active service in the militia of the  
24 State of Pennsylvania under and in pursuance of any of  
25 the proclamations issued by the Governor during the Civil  
26 War and not duly mustered into the service of the  
27 United States by repealing the provisions as to deceased  
28 indigent travelers by providing for the burial at the ex-  
29 pense of the county of indigent persons unfit for anatomical

1 purposes upon the certificate of the board or its duly  
2 authorized officer or agent that such bodies are unfit for  
3 anatomical purposes or are the bodies of soldiers sailors  
4 or marines required to be buried at the public expense  
5 and that the provisions of this act have been complied  
6 with by providing that no warrants for payment of ex-  
7 penses of burial shall be drawn or paid except upon  
8 such certificate by providing for the burial of bodies ren-  
9 dered unfit for anatomical purposes by the failure to com-  
10 ply with the provisions of this act at the expense of  
11 the person failing to comply with its provisions" which  
12 reads as follows

13 "Section 2 All public officers agents and servants and  
14 all officers agents and servants of any and every county  
15 city township borough district and other municipality and  
16 of any and every almshouse prison morgue hospital or  
17 other municipality or other public institution having charge  
18 or control over dead human bodies required to be buried  
19 at the public expense are hereby required to notify the  
20 said board of distribution or such person or persons as  
21 may from time to time be designated by said board or  
22 its duly authorized officer or agent whenever any such  
23 body or bodies come to his or their possession charge  
24 or control and shall without fee or reward deliver such  
25 body or bodies and permit and suffer the said board  
26 and its agents and the physicians and surgeons from time  
27 to time designated by them who may comply with the  
28 provisions of this act to take and remove all such  
29 bodies to be used within the State for the advancement

1 of medical science but no such notice need be given nor  
2 shall any such body be delivered if any relative by blood  
3 or marriage shall claim the said body for burial within  
4 a reasonable time which shall not be less than forty-  
5 eight hours after death but the body shall be surrendered  
6 to said claimant for interment and no such notice shall  
7 be given nor shall any such body be delivered if any  
8 friend or any representative of a fraternal society of  
9 which deceased was a member or a representative of any  
10 charitable organization shall claim the said body for burial  
11 within a reasonable time which shall not be limited to  
12 less than forty-eight hours said burial to be at the ex-  
13 pense of such friend fraternal society or charitable organi-  
14 zation nor shall the notice be given or body delivered  
15 if said person was a traveler who died suddenly or was  
16 an honorably discharged soldier sailor or marine of the  
17 United States or of the militia of the State of Penn-  
18 sylvania in which case said body shall be buried in ac-  
19 cordance with the provisions of existing laws In case of  
20 the death of any person whose body is required to be  
21 buried at the public expense and the duly authorized offi-  
22 cer or agent of the board deems such body unfit for  
23 anatomical purposes he shall notify in writing the poor  
24 directors overseers or in counties in which there are no  
25 poor directors or overseers then the county commissioners  
26 of the county where such person died who shall direct  
27 some person to take charge of the body of such de-  
28 ceased indigent person and cause it to be buried and

1 draw warrants upon the treasurer of their county for the  
2 payment of such expenses not exceeding however the sum  
3 of thirty-five dollars on each body buried in accordance  
4 with the provisions of this act Such warrants shall be  
5 made payable to the persons so authorized and directed  
6 who shall have buried the bodies for which the warrants  
7 are to be drawn No warrants for the payment of the  
8 expenses of the burial of any persons whose body is re-  
9 quired to be buried at the public expense shall be drawn  
10 or paid except upon the certificate of the duly author-  
11 ized officer or agent of the board to the effect that  
12 such body is unfit for anatomical purposes or that the  
13 body is that of a soldier sailor or marine required to  
14 be buried at the public expense and that the provisions  
15 of this act have been complied with Wherever through the  
16 failure of any person to deliver the body of a deceased  
17 indigent as required by this act such body shall become  
18 unfit for anatomical purposes and is so certified by the  
19 duly authorized officer or agent of said board of distribu-  
20 tion such body shall be buried in accordance with the  
21 provisions of this act and the person so failing to de-  
22 liver such body shall pay to the county treasurer the  
23 expense so incurred and upon the refusal or failure of  
24 such person on demand to pay such expense the poor  
25 directors or overseers or in counties in which there are  
26 no poor directors or overseers then the county commis-  
27 sioners shall bring suit to recover the same to be re-  
28 covered as debts of like amount are by law collectible  
29 is hereby amended to read as follows

1 Section 2 All public officers agents and servants and  
 2 all officers agents and servants of any and every county  
 3 city township borough district and other municipality and  
 4 of any and every almshouse prison morgue hospital or  
 5 other municipality or other public institution having charge  
 6 or control over dead human bodies required to be buried  
 7 at the public expense are hereby required to notify the  
 8 said board of distribution or such person or persons as  
 9 may from time to time be designated by said board or  
 10 its duly authorized officer or agent whenever any such  
 11 body or bodies come to his or their possession charge  
 12 or control and shall without fee or reward deliver such  
 13 body or bodies and permit and suffer the said board  
 14 and its agents and the physicians and surgeons from time  
 15 to time designated by them who may comply with the  
 16 provisions of this act to take and remove all such bodies  
 17 to be used within the State for the advancement of  
 18 medical science but no such notice need be given nor  
 19 shall any such body be delivered if any relative by blood  
 20 or marriage shall claim the body for burial within a  
 21 reasonable time which shall not be less than forty-eight  
 22 hours after death but the body shall be surrendered to  
 23 said claimant for interment and no such notice shall be  
 24 given nor shall any such body be delivered if any friend  
 25 or any representative of a fraternal society of which de-  
 26 ceased was a member or a representative of any charit-  
 27 able organization shall claim the said body for burial  
 28 within a reasonable time which shall not be limited to  
 29 less than forty-eight hours said burial to be at the ex-

1 pense of such friend fraternal society or charitable organ-  
2 ization nor shall the notice be given or body delivered if  
3 said person was a traveler who died suddenly or was  
4 an honorably discharged soldier sailor or marine of the  
5 United States or of the militia of the State of Penn-  
6 sylvania in which case said body shall be buried in ac-  
7 cordance with the provisions of existing laws In case of the  
8 death of any person whose body is required to be buried  
9 at the public expense and the duly authorized officer or  
10 agent of the board deems such body unfit for anatomical  
11 purposes he shall notify in writing the poor directors  
12 overseers or in counties in which there are no poor di-  
13 rectors or overseers then the county commissioners of the  
14 county where such person died who shall direct some  
15 person to take charge of the body of such deceased in-  
16 digent person and cause it to be buried and draw war-  
17 rants upon the treasurer of their county for the payment  
18 of such expenses which expenses shall not be less than  
19 thirty-five dollars nor more than fifty dollars on each  
20 body buried in accordance with the provisions of this act  
21 Such warrants shall be made payable to the persons so  
22 authorized and directed who shall be made payable to the  
23 persons so authorized and directed who shall have buried  
24 the bodies for which the warrants are to be drawn  
25 No warrants for the payment of the expenses of the  
26 burial of any person whose body is required to be buried  
27 at the public expense shall be drawn or paid except  
28 upon the certificate of the duly authorized officer or agent  
29 of the board to the effect that such body is unfit for

1 anatomical purposes or that the body is that of a sol-  
2 dier sailor or marine required to be buried at the pub-  
3 lic expense and that the provisions of this act, have been  
4 complied with. Wherever through the failure of any per-  
5 son to deliver the body of a deceased indigent as re-  
6 quired by this act such body shall become unfit for  
7 anatomical purposes and is so certified by the duly au-  
8 thorized officer or agent of said board of distribution  
9 such body shall be buried in accordance with the pro-  
10 visions of this act and the person so failing to deliver  
11 such body shall pay to the county treasurer the expense  
12 so incurred and upon the refusal or failure of such per-  
13 son on demand to pay such expenses the poor directors  
14 or overseers or in counties in which there are no poor  
15 directors or overseers then the county commissioners shall  
16 bring suit to recover the same to be recovered as debts  
17 of like amount are by law collectible