



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 9, 2015

Ordinance 18103

Proposed No. 2015-0344.1

Sponsors Upthegrove

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the fee for certain medical
2 examiner services; and amending Ordinance 17733,
3 Section 16, and K.C.C. 4A.650.150.

4 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 5 1. In November 2007, the council adopted Ordinance 15952, which
6 prohibited cremation of the body of a decedent who died in the county
7 without first reporting the death to the medical examiner's office and
8 receiving authorization for cremation.
- 9 2. Additionally, Ordinance 15952 established a fifty-dollar cremation
10 permit fee, effective January 1, 2008.
- 11 3. Ordinance 15952, Section 2, was codified as K.C.C. 2.24.135.
- 12 4. In November 2010, the council adopted Ordinance 16973, which
13 amended K.C.C. 2.24.135 and expanded the reporting and authorization
14 requirement to burials or other dispositions of bodies and renamed the fee
15 a body disposition permit fee.
- 16 5. In November 2013, the council adopted Ordinance 17692, which
17 amended K.C.C. 2.24.135 and increased the body disposition permit fee to
18 sixty dollars.

19 6. In January 2014, the council adopted Ordinance 17733, which created a
20 new chapter on public health duties in K.C.C. Title 2.

21 7. Ordinance 17733 also recodified the body disposition fee amount from
22 K.C.C. 2.24.135 to K.C.C. 4A.650.150.

23 8. The recodification of the fee amount was accomplished in two sections
24 of Ordinance 17733.

25 9. First, Ordinance 17733, Section 15, amended K.C.C. 2.24.135.B.1 as
26 follows: "A person reporting a death to the medical examiner's office of a
27 person whose remains are to be buried, cremated or otherwise disposed
28 shall be charged ((a) the fee ((of fifty dollars)) in section 16 of this
29 ordinance."

30 10. Second, Ordinance 17733, Section 16, added to K.C.C. chapter
31 4A.650 a new section to read as follows: "A person reporting a death to
32 the medical examiner's office of a person who remains are to be buried,
33 cremated or otherwise disposed under K.C.C. 2.24.135, as recodified by
34 this ordinance, shall be charged a fee of fifty dollars."

35 11. Ordinance 17733, Section 15, incorrectly displayed "fifty dollars" as
36 the current authorized fee. At the end of 2013, by Ordinance 17692, the
37 authorized fee had been increased to sixty dollars.

38 12. The intent of Ordinance 17733 was to move the authorized fee from
39 K.C.C. chapter 2.24, not to amend the amount of the fee.

40 13. Due to a drafting inaccuracy, the fee amount in Ordinance 17733
41 inadvertently remained fifty dollars and did not reflect the amount that the

42 council had previously adopted just a few months earlier and that was in
43 effect at the time Ordinance 17733 was adopted.

44 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

45 SECTION 1. It is the council's intent to clarify the law to reflect that the body
46 disposition permit fee has been sixty dollars since January 1, 2014, the effective date of
47 Ordinance 17692.

48 SECTION 2. Ordinance 17733, Section 16, and K.C.C. 4A.650.150 are each
49 hereby amended to read as follows:

50 A person reporting a death to the medical examiner's office of a person whose

51 remains are to be buried, cremated or otherwise disposed under K.C.C. 2.35A.090, shall
52 be charged a fee of (~~fifty~~) sixty dollars.
53

Ordinance 18103 was introduced on 8/24/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/8/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 18th day of September, 2015.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

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Attachments: None