

CHAPTER 2024-135

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1653

An act relating to duties and prohibited acts associated with death; amending s. 406.12, F.S.; authorizing a report regarding specified deaths and circumstances to be made to a law enforcement agency in addition to the medical examiner; increasing the criminal penalty for failing or refusing to report a death or for refusing to make available certain information with the intent to conceal the death or alter the evidence and circumstances surrounding the death; increasing the criminal penalty for willfully touching, removing, or disturbing a body without an order from the office of the district medical examiner with the intent to conceal the death or alter the evidence and circumstances surrounding the death; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 406.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

406.12 Duty to report; prohibited acts.—

(1) It is the duty of any person in the district where a death occurs, including all municipalities and unincorporated and federal areas, who becomes aware of the death of any person occurring under the circumstances described in s. 406.11 to report such death and circumstances forthwith to the district medical examiner or to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location.

(2) Any person who knowingly fails or refuses to report such death and circumstances as required under subsection (1) or, who refuses to make available prior medical or other information pertinent to the death investigation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(3) Any person, or who, with the intent to conceal such death or to alter the evidence or circumstances surrounding such death:

(a) Violates subsection (2); or

(b) Without an order from the office of the district medical examiner, willfully touches, removes, or disturbs the body, clothing, or any article upon or near the body, ~~with the intent to alter the evidence or circumstances surrounding the death, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first~~ commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, or s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor April 26, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 26, 2024.