

Reported Recommending
Ind. Postponed
Passed House
Failed to Pass House
Passed Senate
Failed to Pass Senate

House File 349

February 24, 1947.
Judiciary 1.

By BURKMAN.

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the disposal of dead bodies, requiring reports to be made in certain instances of death due to violence, negligence, or other act or omission of a criminal nature, to the county coroner and state bureau of investigation.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. It shall be the duty of any physician and
2 of any person in charge of any hospital, nursing home,
3 jail, or other institution, or of any person who shall
4 have first knowledge of the death of any person who shall
5 have died suddenly, accidentally, violently or as the
6 result of any suspicious circumstances or without medical
7 attendance up to a time thirty-six (36) hours prior to the
8 hour of death, or in any case of death due to what is
9 commonly known as an abortion, whether self-induced or
10 otherwise, to notify the county coroner immediately of the
11 death. It shall be unlawful for any funeral director,
12 embalmer or other person to remove any body from the place
13 where such death occurred or to prepare said body for
14 burial, cremation, or shipment, without first notifying
15 the county coroner and receiving his written permission

16 to remove the body. The county coroner upon receiving any
17 such information shall forthwith report the death,
18 probable cause of death, either by telegram or written
19 communication, to the state bureau of investigation, on
20 a form furnished by the county board of supervisors.

- 1 Sec. 2. All acts or parts of acts in conflict .
- 2 herewith are hereby repealed insofar as they are
- 3 inconsistent with any of the provisions of this act.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 349

The passage of this bill would be in the public interest. Reports of all homicides should be made to the coroner and by him to the State Bureau of Investigation. This is no more than common sense as the State Bureau of Investigation is the State's constabulary and should aid local law enforcement officials in ferreting out crime wherever found, especially in the smaller communities. Many homicidal cases each year are unsolved, primarily because no one with experience has had the opportunity to make an adequate investigation in suspicious cases. Further, cremation should not be permitted without direction from some authority. This is important in that it may occasionally prevent the cremation of a body where all the evidence is destroyed and afterwards foul play comes to the surface. Then, too, criminal abortions are the cause of many deaths in this state, where the perpetrator goes unpunished. Reports required to be made to the county coroner and State Bureau of Investigation would act as a deterrent in the commission of an illegal abortion.