

February 23, 1951.
Public Health, Pharmacy.

House File 539
By LUDWIG.

Passed House, Date
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter one hundred forty-two (142), Code 1950,
relating to the use of dead bodies for scientific purposes.

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

1 Section 1. Section one hundred forty-two point one (142.1),
2 Code 1950, is hereby amended as follows:

3 1. By inserting after the comma (,) following the words
4 "within the state" in line four (4) the following:

5 "or which is to be buried at public expense in this state,
6 except those buried under the provisions of chapter 249".

7 2. By striking from line fifteen (15) the words "or friends".

8 3. By inserting after the word "bodies" in line fifteen
9 (15) the following: "shall be first (1st.) delivered to the
10 medical college of the state university until its need for the
11 same have been met as determined by the state department of
12 health, the balance of said bodies".

13 4. By inserting after the word "said" in line sixteen (16),
14 the word "other".

1 Sec. 2. Section one hundred forty-two point three (142.3),
2 Code 1950, is hereby amended by striking from line seven (7) the

3 words “or friend”, and by adding at the end of said section
4 the following:

5 “Complete jurisdiction over said bodies is vested
6 exclusively in the state department of health. No autopsy or
7 post mortem, except as are legally ordered by county coroners,
8 shall be performed on any of said bodies prior to their delivery
9 to the medical school without the permission of the department.”

1 Sec. 3. Section one hundred forty-two point four (142.4),
2 Code 1950, is hereby amended by striking from lines four (4)
3 and five (5) the words “or friend”, and by striking the period
4 (.) at the end thereof, and substituting in lieu thereof a
5 comma (,) and adding the following:

6 “unless such person claiming the body for burial pays the
7 costs that have been incurred in the care and transportation of
8 the body and removes the body within thirty (30) days after
9 claiming it, all rights thereto shall cease and the body may
10 then be used as if no claim had been made.”

1 Sec. 4. Section one hundred forty-two point nine (142.9),
2 Code 1950, is amended by striking the words “fifty dollars”
3 (\$50.00) at the end thereof and by inserting in lieu thereof
4 the words “five hundred dollars” (\$500.00).

1 Sec. 5. Chapter one hundred forty-two (142), Code 1950,
2 is amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 “Disposition by will or written instrument. Every
4 inhabitant of this state of the age of twenty-one (21) years
5 or more and of sound mind may, by his will or by a written

6 instrument executed in the same manner as a deed, arrange for
7 or prescribe for the disposition to be made, after death, of his
8 body or any organ, member or part thereof, provided the same is
9 for the purpose of scientific use as provided in this chapter,
10 or for other advancement of medical science, or for the
11 replacement or rehabilitation of diseased or worn out parts or
12 organs of other humans. The person or persons having the right
13 to a body for burial may likewise consent to such use of the
14 body or parts thereof. Any such disposition of his own body
15 may be revoked by the testator or grantor at any time prior to
16 his death by the execution of written instrument in the same
17 manner as the original grant.”

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 539

A serious shortage of bodies for use at the college of medicine handicaps its recently stepped-up program to turn out more doctors. The practice at some institutions of performing autopsies destroys the usefulness of the body for scientific purposes. The proposed amendments are designed to give the state medical college preference for the required bodies and place more power in the state department of health. The new sections proposed is important in that it will clear the way for the establishment of eye-banks, bone-banks, nerve-banks and similar procedures now developing for the rehabilitation of diseased organs of living persons.