- 1 HB48
- 2 214892-1
- 3 By Representative Brown (K)
- 4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
- 5 First Read: 11-JAN-22

1	214892-1:n	:12/01/2021:KMS/cmg LSA2021-1702
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8	SYNOPSIS:	Under existing law, the Alabama Board of
9		Funeral Service licenses and regulates funeral
10		establishments, funeral directors, and embalmers.
11		This bill would simplify language relating
12		to the various licenses, certificates, and
13		registrations issued by the board.
14		This bill would provide further for the
15		compensation of board members, would authorize the
16		board to employ additional associate executive
17		directors, and would provide further for the duties
18		of board members, the executive director, associate
19		executive directors, employees, and independent
20		contractors of the board.
21		This bill would establish the Funeral Board
22		Property Acquisition Fund and would provide for the
23		powers of the board relating to real property.
24		This bill would authorize the board to
25		establish committees and subcommittees and to adopt
26		rules relating to the sale of goods, services, and
27		merchandise by licensees of the board.

1	This bill would provide further for license
2	renewals, past due renewals, and for the
3	reactivation of licenses.
4	This bill would provide further for
5	violations subjecting a licensee to disciplinary
6	action.
7	This bill would provide further for the
8	qualifications for a funeral director's license and
9	an embalmer's license.
10	This bill would require, commencing on
11	October 1, 2023, an initial applicant for a funeral
12	or mortuary service establishment to provide proof
13	of, and maintain, a one million dollar general
14	liability insurance policy.
15	This bill would also increase the apprentice
16	application fee and would provide further for the
17	application and renewal process and disciplinary
18	action relating to a certificate of apprenticeship.
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20	A BILL
21	TO BE ENTITLED
22	AN ACT
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24	Relating to the Alabama Board of Funeral Service; to
25	amend Sections 34-13-1, 34-13-2, 34-13-4, 34-13-7, 34-13-9,
26	34-13-11, 34-13-12, 34-13-23, 34-13-24, 34-13-26, 34-13-27,

34-13-52, 34-13-53, 34-13-54, 34-13-55, 34-13-56, 34-13-56.1,

34-13-72, 34-13-73, 34-13-92, 34-13-94, 34-13-113, 34-13-130, 1 2 34-13-131, 34-13-132, and 34-13-134, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide further for definitions; to simplify language relating 3 to the various licenses, certificates, and registrations 5 issued by the board; to provide further for the compensation 6 of board members; to authorize the board to employ additional 7 associate executive directors and provide further for the duties of board members, the executive director, associate 9 executive directors, employees, and independent contractors; 10 to establish the Funeral Board Property Acquisition Fund and provide for the powers of the board relating to real property; 11 to authorize the board to establish committees and 12 13 subcommittees and to adopt rules relating to the sale of 14 goods, services, and merchandise by licensees; to provide 15 further for license renewals, past due renewals, and the 16 reactivation of licenses; to provide further for violations 17 subjecting a licensee to disciplinary action; to provide 18 further for the qualifications for a funeral director's license and an embalmer's license; to require, commencing on 19 20 October 1, 2023, an initial applicant for a funeral or 21 mortuary service establishment to provide proof of, and 22 maintain, a one million dollar general liability insurance 23 policy; to increase the apprentice application fee and provide 24 further for the application and renewal process and 25 disciplinary action relating to an apprentice. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA: 26

1	Section 1. Sections 34-13-1, 34-13-2, 34-13-4,
2	34-13-7, 34-13-9, 34-13-11, 34-13-12, 34-13-23, 34-13-24,
3	34-13-26, 34-13-27, 34-13-52, 34-13-53, 34-13-54, 34-13-55,
4	34-13-56, 34-13-56.1, 34-13-72, 34-13-73, 34-13-92, 34-13-94,
5	34-13-113, 34-13-130, 34-13-131, 34-13-132, and 34-13-134 of
6	the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:
7	<b>"</b> §34-13-1.
8	"(a) For purposes of this chapter, the following
9	terms shall have the following meanings:
10	"(1) ACCREDITED SCHOOL or COLLEGE OF MORTUARY
11	SCIENCE. A school or college approved by the Alabama American
12	Board of Funeral Service and Education, or a successor
13	organization, which maintains a course of instruction of not
14	less than 48 calendar weeks or four academic quarters or
15	college terms and which gives a course of instruction in the
16	fundamental subjects including, but not limited to, the
17	following:
18	"a. Mortuary management and administration.
19	"b. Legal medicine and toxicology as it pertains to
20	funeral directing.
21	"c. Public health, hygiene, and sanitary science.
22	"d. Mortuary science, to include embalming
23	technique, in all its aspects; chemistry of embalming, color
24	harmony; discoloration, its causes, effects, and treatment;
25	treatment of special cases; restorative art; funeral
26	management; and professional ethics.
27	"e. Anatomy and physiology.

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1	1.	Chemistry,	organic	and inoi	ganic.

2 "g. Pathology.

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- 3 "<del>h. Bacteriology.</del>
  - "i. Sanitation and hygiene.
- 5 "<del>j. Public health regulations.</del>

"k. Other related to funeral service and mortuary science education as approved by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, or a successor organization, and other courses of instruction in fundamental subjects as may be prescribed by the Alabama Board of Funeral Service.

- "(2) ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS. The technical process that reduces human remains to bone fragments using heat, water, and chemical agents.
- "(3) AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION.

  That funeral service educational organization which is an agency granted official recognition by the United States

  Secretary of Education and which is composed of members representing the American Association of College of Mortuary

  Science, the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Board of the United States, Inc., the National Association of Colleges of Mortuary Science, and the University Mortuary Science Education Association and which has as its object the furtherance of education in the field of funeral service and in fields necessary to, or allied with, the field of funeral service, and further to formulate standards of funeral service education and to grant accreditation to qualified schools and colleges of mortuary science and to do all things incidental

to the foregoing The national academic accreditation agency
for college and university programs in funeral service and
mortuary science education. The accrediting function of the
American Board of Funeral Service Education is recognized by
the United States Department of Education and the Council on
Higher Education Accreditation.

- "(4) APPRENTICE EMBALMER or EMBALMER'S APPRENTICE.

  Any person engaged in the study of the art of embalming under the instructions and supervision of a licensed embalmer practicing in this state.
- "(5) APPRENTICE FUNERAL DIRECTOR or FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S APPRENTICE. Any person operating under or in association with a funeral director for the purpose of learning the business or profession of funeral director, to the end that he or she may become licensed under this chapter.
- "(6) AUTHORIZING AGENT. A person at least 18 years of age, except in the case of a surviving spouse or parent, who is legally entitled to order the cremation or final disposition of particular human remains.
  - "(7) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Funeral Service.
- "(8) CASH ADVANCE ITEMS. Any item of service or merchandise described to a purchaser using the term cash advance, accommodation, cash disbursement, or similar term. A cash advance item is also any item obtained from a third party and paid for by a funeral provider on behalf of a purchaser.

  Cash advance items include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

"a. Cemetery or crematory services. 1 "b. Pallbearers. 2 "c. Public, or other, transportation. 3 "d. Clergy honoraria. "e. Flowers. 5 "f. Musicians or singers. "a. Nurses. "h. Obituary notices. "i. Funeral programs. 9 10 "j. Gratuities. "k. Death certificates. 11 "l. Outer burial containers. 12 13 "m. Cemetery plots. 14 "n. Escorts. 15 "(9) CASKET. A rigid container designed for the 16 encasement of human remains. "(10) CEMETERY. A place dedicated to and used or 17 18 intended to be used for the permanent interment of human remains. It may be either land or earth interment; a mausoleum 19 2.0 for vault or crypt entombment; a structure or place used or 21 intended to be used for the interment of cremated remains; 22 cryogenic storage; or any combination of one or more thereof. "(11) CEMETERY AUTHORITY. Any individual, person, 23 24 firm, profit or nonprofit corporation, trustee, partnership, 25 society, religious society, church association or denomination, municipality, or other group or entity, however 26

organized, insofar as they or any of them may now or hereafter

1 establish, own, operate, lease, control, or manage one or more 2 cemeteries, burial parks, mausoleums, columbariums, or any combination or variation thereof, or hold lands or structures 3 for burial grounds or burial purposes in this state and engage 4 5 in the operation of a cemetery, including any one or more of the following: The care and maintenance of a cemetery; the 6 7 interment, entombment, and memorialization of the human dead in a cemetery; the sale, installation, care, maintenance, or 8 9 any combination thereof, with respect of monuments, markers, 10 foundations, memorials, burial vaults, urns, crypts, mausoleums, columbariums, flower vases, floral arrangements, 11 and other cemetery accessories, for installation or use within 12 13 a cemetery; and the supervision and conduct of funeral and burial services within the bounds of the cemetery. 14

"(12) CONVICTION. The entry of a plea of guilty or a guilty verdict rendered by any court of competent jurisdiction, excluding traffic violations.

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- "(13) CREMATED REMAINS. Human remains recovered after the completion of the cremation process, including pulverization, which leaves only bone fragments reduced to unidentifiable dimensions, and the residue of any foreign materials that were cremated with the human remains.
- "(14) CREMATION. The technical <u>irreversible</u> process, using heat, flames, or chemical agents, that reduces human remains to bone fragments. The reduction takes place through heat and evaporation. Cremation shall include the processing,

and may include the pulverization, of the bone fragments. 1 2 Cremation is a process and is a method of final disposition. "(15) CREMATIONIST. A person licensed by the board 3 to perform the procedure of cremation. 4 5 "(16) CREMATION CHAMBER. The retort or vessel used to reduce human remains to bone fragments. 6 7 "(17) CREMATION CONTAINER. The container in which 8 human remains are transported to a crematory, in which human 9 remains are placed in upon arrival at a crematory, or for 10 storage and placement in a cremation chamber for cremation. "(18) CREMATORY. A building or portion of a building 11 that houses a cremation chamber and that may house a holding 12 13 facility for purposes of cremation and as part of a funeral 14 establishment. 15 "(19) EMBALMER. Any person engaged, or holding himself or herself out as engaged, in the business, practice, 16 science, or profession of embalming, whether on his or her own 17 18 behalf or in the employ of a registered and licensed funeral director. 19 20 "(20) EMBALMING. The practice, science, or 21 profession, as commonly practiced, of preserving, disinfecting, and preparing by application of chemicals or 22 23 other effectual methods, human dead for burial, cremation, or 24 transportation. 25 "(21) FUNERAL. A ceremony for celebrating, sanctifying, or remembering the life of a person who has died. 26

A funeral may be divided into the following two parts:

1 "a. The funeral service, which may take place at a 2 funeral home, church, or other place.

"b. The committal service or disposition, which may take place by the grave, tomb, mausoleum, or crematory where the body of the decedent is to be buried or cremated.

"(22) FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. The completing of funeral service arrangements, cremation arrangements, and the financial details of a funeral at the time of death. The term includes the collection of vital statistic information, death certificate information, obituary and funeral notice completion, the completion of a statement of funeral goods and services selected, organizing of funeral and memorial services for families, and the ordering of cash advance items.

"(23) FUNERAL DIRECTING. The practice of directing or supervising funerals, the practice of preparing dead human bodies for burial by means other than embalming, or the preparation for the disposition of dead human bodies; the making of funeral arrangements or providing for funeral services or the making of financial arrangements for the rendering of these services; the provision or maintenance of a place for the preparation for disposition of dead human bodies; or the use of the terms funeral director, undertaker, mortician, funeral parlor, or any other term from which can be implied the practice of funeral directing; or the holding out to the public that one is a funeral director or engaged in a practice described in this subdivision.

"(24) FUNERAL DIRECTOR. A person required to be licensed to practice the profession of funeral directing under the laws of this state, who consults with the public, who plans details of funeral services with members of the family and minister or any other person responsible for such planning, or who directs, is in charge, or apparent charge of, and supervises funeral service in a funeral home, church, or other place; who enters into the making, negotiation, or completion of financial arrangements for funeral services, or who uses in connection with the profession of funeral directing the terms funeral director, undertaker, funeral counselor, mortician, or any other term or picture or combination thereof when considered in context in which used, from which can be implied the practicing of the profession of funeral directing or that the person using such term or picture can be implied to be holding himself or herself out to the public as being engaged in the profession of funeral directing; and for all purposes under Alabama law, a funeral director is considered a professional. For the purposes of this chapter, the term does not include any cemetery authority.

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"(25) FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENTS. The term includes any funeral home or mortuary service located at a specific street address where the profession of funeral directing, embalming, or cremation is practiced in the care, planning, and preparation for burial, cremation, or transportation of human

- dead. A funeral establishment shall consist of and maintain 1 2 all of the following facilities: 3 "a. A preparation room equipped with sanitary nonporous floor and walls, necessary drainage and ventilation, 4 5 and containing operating embalming equipment, necessary approved tables, instruments, hot and cold running water, containers or receptacles for soiled linen or clothing, and supplies for the preparation and embalming of dead human bodies for burial, cremation, and transportation. 9 10 "b. A display room containing a stock of adult caskets and funeral supplies displayed in full size, cuts, 11 12 photographs, or electronic images. At no time shall less than 13 eight different adult size caskets be on the premises. 14 "c. At least one operating funeral coach or hearse 15 properly licensed and equipped for transporting human remains 16 in a casket or urn. 17 "d. If engaged in the practice of cremation, the 18 establishment shall satisfy all crematory requirements provided in this chapter and have on site an adequate supply 19 2.0 of urns for display and sale. 21 "e. A room suitable for public viewing or other 22 funeral services that is able to accommodate a minimum of 100 people a minimum of 1,000 square feet. 23 24 "f. An office for holding arrangement conferences 25 with relatives or authorizing agents.
  - Caskets made of any material for use in the burial or

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"(26) FUNERAL SUPPLIES or FUNERAL MERCHANDISE.

transportation of human dead; outer receptacles, Any item offered for sale, contracted for sale, or sold for use in connection with funeral directing or funeral services when sold by a funeral director, including, but not limited to, caskets, alternative containers, outer burial vaults and containers, urns, for cremated human remains; memorials, clothing used to dress human dead when sold by a funeral director, and all equipment and accounterments normally required for the preparation for burial or funeral and other disposition of human dead.

"(27) GROSS IMMORALITY. Willful, flagrant, or shameful immorality or showing a moral indifference to the opinions of the good and respectable members of the community and to the just obligations of the position held by the offender.

"(28) HOLDING ROOM. Either of the following:

"a. A room within a funeral establishment that satisfies the requirements of a branch location as provided in this chapter or board rule, for the retention of human remains before disposition.

"b. A room within a crematory facility, designated for the retention of human remains before and after cremation, that is not accessible to the public.

"(29) MANAGING CREMATIONIST. A licensed funeral director and cremationist who has full charge, control, and supervision of all activities involving cremation at a funeral establishment or crematory.

"(30) MANAGING EMBALMER. A licensed embalmer who has

full charge, control, and supervision of all activities

involving the preparation room and embalming.

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- "(31) MANAGING FUNERAL DIRECTOR. A licensed funeral director who has full charge, control, and supervision of all activities involving funeral directing for a funeral establishment.
- "(32) MORAL TURPITUDE. Any unlawful sexual or violent act, or any act involving theft, theft of services, extortion, receiving stolen property, identity theft, forgery, fraud, tampering with records, bribery, perjury, or any similar act in any jurisdiction.
  - "(33) MORTUARY SCIENCE. The scientific,
    professional, and practical aspects, with due consideration
    given to accepted practices, covering the care, preparation
    for burial, or transportation of dead human bodies, which
    shall include the preservation and sanitation of the bodies
    and restorative art and those aspects related to public
    health, jurisprudence, and good business administration.
  - "(34) MORTUARY SERVICE. A location with a specific street address where embalming or cremation, or both, is practiced for a licensed funeral establishment and where no services or merchandise are sold directly or at retail to the public. A mortuary service shall consist of and maintain all of the following facilities:
  - "a. A preparation room equipped with sanitary nonporous floor and walls, operating embalming equipment, and

necessary drainage and ventilation and containing necessary
approved tables, instruments, hot and cold running water,
containers or receptacles for soiled linen or clothing, and
supplies for the preparation and embalming of dead human

bodies for burial, cremation, and transportation.

"b. At least one operating motor vehicle properly licensed and equipped for transporting human remains in a casket or urn.

"c. If engaged in the practice of cremation, the establishment shall satisfy all requirements for a crematory provided in this chapter.

"(35) OPERATOR. A person, corporation, firm, legal representative, or other organization owning or operating a funeral establishment.

"(36) PRACTICAL EMBALMER. Any person who has been actively and continuously engaged or employed in the practice of embalming under the supervision of a licensed embalmer for four consecutive years immediately preceding May 1, 1975, and has been issued a license as a practical embalmer under the grandfather provisions of this chapter.

"(37) PROCESSING or PULVERIZATION. The reduction of identifiable bone fragments after the completion of the cremation process to unidentifiable bone fragments or granulated particles by manual or mechanical means.

"(38) TEMPORARY CONTAINER. A receptacle for cremated remains, usually composed of cardboard, plastic, or similar material, that can be closed in a manner that prevents the

leakage or spillage of the cremated remains or the entrance of foreign material, and is a single container of sufficient size to hold the cremated remains until an urn is acquired or the cremated remains are scattered or buried.

"(39) URN. A receptacle designed to encase cremated remains.

"(b) Nothing in this chapter shall require a funeral director or funeral establishment to have or provide a chapel or to restrict the conduct of funeral services from a church or chapel.

"\$34-13-2.

"It is declared and established that the procedures for making final disposition of human dead, including embalming and, funeral directing, cremating, disposing, and burying of deceased remains, are so affected with the public interest as to require regulation and control of such included these occupations and that, additionally, such regulation and control are necessary for the prevention of the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the state, and that all of the provisions of this chapter and regulations rules authorized to be made are necessary to effectuate its purpose; and all of the provisions of this chapter shall be construed liberally and in a manner to carry out its obvious intents and purposes.

26 "\$34-13-4.

"Upon request, the board shall distribute to funeral directors, embalmers, and apprentices each licensee and such other persons as may be interested therein, in hard copy form, and shall maintain in electronic format on the website of the board, the provisions of this chapter together with all rules and regulations prescribed, adopted, or promulgated pursuant to this chapter, together with a complete and current list of all persons and establishments licensed under this chapter.

"\$34-13-7.

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"Any person who embezzles, abstracts, or willfully misapplies any of the moneys monies, funds, security, or credit of the board or who misuses any of the funds or fees so collected, by virtue of this chapter, and any person who, with like intent, aids or abets any person in violation of this chapter shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and imprisonment in the penitentiary for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years, and the principal offenders and those aiding and abetting same may be charged in the same count, and separate offenses may be charged, in separate counts, in the same indictment and tried together. Any person found guilty of offering or of accepting a bribe whereupon any person is illegally licensed to practice embalming, to practice funeral directing, or to operate a funeral establishment as a licensee regulated by this chapter in this state shall be punished by a fine of not less than

five hundred dollars (\$500) nor exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and may be imprisoned in the penitentiary for a period of one to three years, and the principal offenders and those aiding and abetting same may be charged in the same count and separate offenses may be charged in separate counts in the same indictment and tried together.

"\$34-13-9.

"(a) Funeral service, cemetery service, and funeral

Pricing of services and merchandise pricing offered by a

licensee shall conform to comply with rules established by the

Federal Trade Commission and each.

"(b) Each funeral establishment shall have a card or brochure in each full-size and cut casket, and a clear statement on each photograph and electronic image of a casket, stating the unit price of that casket.

"\$34-13-11.

"(a) A person, who is at least 18 years of age and of sound mind, may enter into a contract to act as authorizing agent and direct the location, manner, and conditions of disposition of deceased remains and arrange for funeral and burial goods and services to be provided upon death. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), the right to control the disposition of the remains of a deceased person as an authorizing agent, including the location, manner, and conditions of disposition and arrangements for funeral and burial goods and services to be provided, shall vest in the following persons in the priority listed and the order named,

provided the person is at least 18 years of age and of sound 2 mind: "(1) The person designated by the decedent as 3 authorized to direct disposition pursuant to Public Law No. 4 5 109-163, Section 564, as listed on the decedent's United 6 States Department of Defense Record of Emergency Data, DD Form 7 93, or its successor form, if the decedent died while serving on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed 8 9 Forces, United States Reserve Forces, or National Guard. 10 "(2)a. The person designated by the decedent in an affidavit executed in accordance with paragraph b. 11 12 "b. Any person, at least 18 years of age and of 13 sound mind, may authorize another person to control the 14 disposition of his or her remains pursuant to an affidavit executed before a notary public in substantially the following 15 16 form: ""State of Alabama 17 18 "County of \_\_\_\_\_ "I, \_\_\_\_\_ designate to 19 20 control the disposition of my remains upon my death. I have 21 have not attached specific directions concerning the disposition of my remains. If specific directions are 22 23 attached, the designee shall substantially comply with those 24 directions, provided the directions are lawful and there are 25 sufficient resources in my estate to carry out those directions. 26

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_ day of the month of \_\_\_ of the year \_\_\_.

"\_\_\_\_\_(signature of notary public)"

"(3) The surviving spouse.

- "(4) The sole surviving child of the decedent or, if there is more than one surviving child, a majority of the surviving children. Less than a majority of the surviving children may be vested with the rights of this section if reasonable efforts have been made to notify all surviving children of the instructions and a majority of the surviving children are not aware of any opposition to the instructions.
- "(5) The sole surviving grandchild of the decedent or, if there is more than one surviving grandchild, a majority of the surviving grandchildren. Less than a majority of the surviving grandchildren may be vested with the rights of this section if reasonable efforts have been made to notify all surviving grandchildren of the instructions and a majority of the surviving grandchildren are not aware of any opposition to the instructions.
- "(6) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent. If one surviving parent is absent, the remaining parent shall be vested with the rights and duties of this section after reasonable efforts in locating the absent surviving parent have been unsuccessful.
- "(7) The surviving sibling of the decedent or, if there is more than one surviving sibling, a majority of the surviving siblings. Less than a majority of the surviving

siblings may be vested with the rights and duties of this 1 2 section if reasonable efforts have been made to notify all surviving siblings of the instructions and a majority of the 3 surviving siblings are not aware of any opposition to the 4 instructions.

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- "(8) The surviving grandparent of the decedent or, if there is more than one surviving grandparent, a majority of the surviving grandparents. Less than a majority of the surviving grandparents may be vested with the rights and duties of this section if reasonable efforts have been made to notify all surviving grandparents of the instructions and a majority of the surviving grandparents are not aware of any opposition to the instructions.
- "(9) The quardian of the decedent at the time of the death of the decedent, if a quardian had been appointed.
- "(10) The personal representative of the estate of the decedent.
- "(11) The person in the classes of the next degree of kinship, in descending order, under the laws of descent and distribution to inherit the estate of the decedent. If there is more than one person of the same degree, any person of that degree may exercise the right of disposition.
- "(12) The public officer, administrator, or employee responsible for arranging the final disposition of the remains of the decedent if the disposition of the remains is the responsibility of the state or a political subdivision of the state.

"(13) Any other person willing to assume the
responsibility of acting on and arranging the final
disposition of the remains of the decedent, including the
funeral director that has custody of the body, in the absence
of any person specified in subdivisions (1) to (12),
inclusive. The person shall attest in writing that good faith
efforts to contact the persons specified in subdivisions (1)
to (12), inclusive, have been unsuccessful.

- "(b) The right of disposition shall be forfeited and passed to the next qualifying person listed in subsection (a), in any of the following circumstances:
- "(1) The person is charged with first or second degree murder or voluntary manslaughter in connection with the death of the decedent and the charges are known by the mortician. If the charges against the person are dismissed or the person is acquitted of the charges, the right of disposition shall be reinstated.
- "(2) The person does not exercise his or her right of disposition within two days after notification of the death of the decedent or within three days after the death of the decedent, whichever is earlier.
- "(3) If the person is the spouse of the decedent and a petition to dissolve the marriage was pending at the time of death of the decedent.
- "(4) If the judge of probate court determines, pursuant to subsection (c), that the person entitled to the right of disposition and the decedent were estranged at the

time of death. For the purposes of this subdivision, estranged means a physical and emotional separation that has existed for such a period of time that an absence of affection, trust, and regard for the decedent is clearly demonstrated.

- "(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), the judge of probate of the county of residence of the decedent may award the right of disposition to the person the judge of probate determines to be the most fit and appropriate to manage the right of disposition, and may make decisions regarding the remains of the decedent if the persons possessing the right of disposition do not agree. If two or more persons who possess an equal right of disposition are not able by majority vote to agree upon the disposition of the remains of the decedent, any of those persons or the funeral establishment with custody of the remains may file a petition asking the judge of probate to make a determination in the matter. In making such a determination, the judge of probate shall consider all of the following:
- "(1) The reasonableness and practicality of the proposed funeral and disposition arrangements.
- "(2) The degree of the personal relationship between the decedent and each person possessing a right of disposition.
- "(3) The financial ability and willingness of each person possessing a right of disposition to pay the cost of the funeral and disposition arrangements.

- "(4) The convenience and needs of other family members and friends who wish to pay their respects and the degree to which the funeral arrangements would allow maximum participation by all who wish to pay their respects.
  - "(5) The desires of the decedent.

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"(d) Absent negligence, wantonness, recklessness, or deliberate misconduct in the event of a dispute regarding the right of disposition, a funeral establishment licensee may not be held liable for refusing to accept remains, for interring, or for otherwise disposing of the remains of a decedent or for completing arrangements for the final disposition of remains unless and until the funeral establishment licensee receives an order from the judge of probate, or other written agreement signed by all persons possessing a right of disposition, regarding the final disposition of the remains. If a funeral establishment licensee retains remains for final disposition during a disagreement, the funeral establishment licensee may embalm or refrigerate and shelter the body, or both, to preserve the body pending the final decision of the judge of probate. The funeral establishment licensee may add the cost of embalming or refrigeration and sheltering, or both, to the final disposition cost. If a funeral establishment licensee files a petition pursuant to subsection (c), the funeral establishment licensee may add any associated legal fees and court costs to the cost of final disposition. This section may not be construed to require or impose a duty upon a funeral establishment licensee to bring an action pursuant to this

section. A <u>funeral establishment licensee</u> and its employees may not be held criminally or civilly liable for not bringing an action pursuant to this section.

"(e) Except to the degree that it may be considered by the judge of probate pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (c), the fact that a person has paid or has agreed to pay for all or a part of funeral and final disposition arrangements does not give that person a greater voice in right of disposition decisions than he or she would have had otherwise. The personal representative of the estate of a decedent, by virtue of being the personal representative, does not have a greater voice in right of disposition decisions than he or she would have had otherwise.

"\$34-13-12.

"(a) Any person signing a funeral service agreement, cremation authorization form, or any other authorization for disposition by his or her signature shall attest to the truthfulness of any facts set forth in the document including, but not limited to, the identity of the decedent whose remains are to be buried, cremated, or otherwise disposed of and the authority of the person to order the disposition. A funeral establishment licensee may rely on a funeral service agreement, contract, or disposition authorization in carrying out the instructions of the person the funeral establishment licensee reasonably believes to hold the right of disposition. A funeral establishment licensee is not responsible for contacting or independently investigating the existence of any

next-of-kin or relative of a decedent. If there is more than one person in a class with equal priority and the funeral establishment licensee has no knowledge of any objection by any other member of that class, the funeral establishment licensee may rely upon and act according to the instructions of the first person in the class to make funeral and disposition arrangements.

"(b) Absent negligence, wantonness, recklessness, or deliberate misconduct, no funeral establishment or funeral director licensee who relies in good faith upon the instructions of a person who claims a right of disposition shall be subject to criminal or civil liability, or be subject to disciplinary action, for carrying out the disposition of the remains in accordance with those instructions.

"§34-13-23.

"(a) (1) The board appointed under this chapter and each successor thereto is authorized to select from its own membership a chair and to adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations for the transaction of its business and for the betterment and promotion of the standards of service and practice to be followed in the funeral service profession death care industry in the State of Alabama as the board may deem expedient and consistent with the laws of this state and for the public good.

"(2) The chair shall preside at all meetings of the board unless otherwise ordered, and he or she shall exercise

and perform all duties and functions incident to the office of chair.

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- "(3) The board may select <del>also</del> from its own membership a vice chair, a secretary, and a treasurer. No two offices shall be held by the same person.
  - "(b) The treasurer shall give bond to the State of Alabama in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), and any premium payable for the bond shall be paid from the funds of the board. The bond shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Alabama.
  - "(c) Board members A board member shall be reimbursed for their necessary traveling travel expenses, per diem, and the necessary expenses incident to their his or her attendance upon the business of the board, and, in addition thereto, they shall receive compensation in the sum of fifty dollars (\$50) per diem amount of seventy-five dollars (\$75) for every day not to exceed 20 days per year actually spent by the member upon the business of the board. The board may employ in the unclassified service an executive director and up to four associate executive director directors who shall each receive and be paid an annual salary to be fixed by the board, but not to exceed the salary level established and paid to cabinet officers in the state government pursuant to Section 36-6-6. The salary shall be paid on a semimonthly basis. In addition, the executive director and associate executive directors shall each receive his or her necessary traveling travel and other incidental expenses as

are incurred in the performance of duties, and all expenses, per diem, and compensation shall be paid out of the receipts of the board. At no time shall the operation of the board be an expense to the state, and at no time shall expenses of the board exceed the receipts of the board.

- "(d) The executive director of the board shall have complete supervision and be held responsible for the direction of the office of the board, shall have supervision over <a href="employees">employees</a>, field inspection inspections, audits, and enforcement of this chapter, and shall be responsible and answerable to the board. The associate executive director director shall assist the executive director and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the board executive director.
- "(e) The executive director shall keep a record in which shall be registered the name and business address of every person to whom licenses have been granted in accordance with this chapter, the number and date of the license and the date of each renewal. Upon request to do so, the executive director shall supply each person licensed for the practice of embalming and funeral directing with a list of all persons and establishments holding a license under this chapter, then in force, giving the names of the persons, their business addresses, and the numbers of their licenses.
- "(f) It shall be the duty of the executive director to prepare under the direction of the board and cause to be printed all forms required by this chapter to be prescribed by

the board. All notices required to be mailed by this chapter shall be directed to the last known post office address of the party to whom the notice is sent.

- "(g) The executive director shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall perform duties as may be necessary for the proper functioning of the board as the board may determine or as may be prescribed in this chapter. During the employment of the executive director, he or she may not be employed by any funeral establishment.
- "(h) All fees and fines received under this chapter shall be paid into a special fund in the State Treasury to be known as the Alabama State Funeral Directors and Embalmers

  Service Fund, which is hereby created, for the necessary and proper expenses of the board, and for a reasonable reserve for future use by the board. All moneys monies in the fund are hereby appropriated, as a continuing appropriation, to the board to be used for carrying out this chapter.
- "(i) Each member of the board, the executive director, the associate executive director directors, designated employees, and independent contractors of the board appropriately identified are authorized at any given time on complaint or for inspection purposes to enter the office, premises, establishment, or place of business of any funeral service licensee in the State of Alabama or any office, premises, establishment, or place where the practice of funeral service is carried on, or where the practice is advertised as being carried on, for the purpose of inspecting

the office, premises, records, or establishment and for the purpose of inspecting where any practice or activity regulated by this chapter is carried on, or advertised as being carried on, to investigate complaints or perform audits or inspections. Each on-site inspection shall include an inspection of the license, certification, and registration of any funeral service each licensee and apprentice trainee operating therein.

"(j) All members of the board or designated employees of the board may serve and execute any process issued by any court under this chapter and to serve and execute any papers, orders, or process issued by the board or any officer or member thereof of the board under this chapter.

"(k) The board may employ clerical assistants and employees or other help as necessary to carry out this chapter, and the terms and conditions of employment shall be determined by the board. The board may establish and equip an office from which this chapter may be carried out.

"(1) (1) The board may acquire and hold, in its own name, real property by purchase, gift, lease, lease with the option to purchase, or other lawful means, except eminent domain, which real property may be used by the board to carry out its responsibilities. The board may also transfer, sell, convey, or cause to be conveyed real property and any improvements thereon, subject to the requirements of this section. In purchasing any real property, maintaining real property, or making improvements thereto, the board may expend

Fund established in subdivision (2), and any obligations 2 3 created in connection with the purchase or improvement of the real property shall not create debts, obligations, or 4 5 liabilities of the state. As used in this subsection, real property shall include land, lots, and all things and 6 7 interests, including leasehold interests, pertaining thereto, 8 and all other things annexed or attached to the land which 9 would pass to a vendee by conveyance of the land or lot, 10 including mineral, gas, and oil interests. All sales or leases made by the board of any real property owned or held by the 11 board shall be subject to the requirements of Article 3, 12 13 commencing with Section 9-15-70, Chapter 15, Title 9. 14 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the proceeds from the sale of 15 real property owned by the board which are distributed pursuant to Section 9-15-83, shall be paid to the board and 16 17 deposited into the property acquisition fund. 18 "(2) There is established the Funeral Board Property Acquisition Fund within the State Treasury. Any funds received 19 20 by the board pursuant to this section shall be deposited into 21 the property acquisition fund and shall be held by the board 22 in trust for carrying out the purposes of the property acquisition fund. Amounts in the property acquisition fund 23 24 shall be budgeted and allotted in accordance with Sections 25 41-4-80 through 41-4-96 and Sections 41-19-1 through 41-19-12. Not later than the effective date of the act adding this 26 subdivision, the executive director shall transfer from the 27

any funds contained in the Funeral Board Property Acquisition

Alabama State Funeral Service Fund to the property acquisition

fund an amount determined by vote of the board for the

purchase of real property. Thereafter, the board shall

annually, during the month of October, transfer an amount

between two percent and seven percent of the receipts of the

board from the previous fiscal year to the property

acquisition fund.

"(3) At the end of each fiscal year, any unencumbered and unexpended balance in the property acquisition fund shall not revert to the State General Fund but shall carry over to the next fiscal year.

"\$34-13-24.

"Every Each member of the board, and member of any committee or subcommittee established by the board, after appointment and before entering upon his or her duties, shall make oath before some officer competent to administer oaths, that he or she is legally qualified to become a member of the board, committee, or subcommittee under the provisions of this chapter and that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of such the office, a copy of which shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

"§34-13-26.

"(a) The board shall adopt and enforce for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare reasonable rules pursuant to the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act.

1	"(b) The board may <u>establish committees and</u>			
2	subcommittees, hold hearings, conduct investigations, subpoens			
3	witnesses, subpoena documents, administer oaths, and take			
4	testimony in order to carry out this chapter.			
5	"(c) A committee or subcommittee established by the			
6	board may conduct meetings, hold hearings, conduct			
7	investigations, subpoena witnesses, subpoena documents,			
8	administer oaths, and take testimony to carry out matters			
9	related to this chapter and may perform any other duty			
10	prescribed by the board. Each committee and subcommittee shall			
11	report any findings and recommendations to the board for			
12	approval.			
13	"§34-13-27.			
14	"The board shall adopt a common seal, which may be			
15	altered as often as the board may desire, and may adopt and			
16	enforce, for the protection of the public health, safety, and			
17	welfare, reasonable rules <del>and regulations</del> relating to <u>all of</u>			
18	the following:			
19	"(1) The practice of the profession of embalming,			
20	including, but not limited to, solicitation of business; $\frac{1}{2}$			
21	"(2) The practice of the profession of funeral			
22	directing, including, but not limited to, solicitation of			
23	business <del>;</del> .			
24	"(3) The sanitary condition and physical facilities			
25	of funeral homes, mortuaries, and funeral establishments where			
26	the profession of embalming and funeral directing is carried			

- on, with particular regard to plumbing, sewage, disinfecting, ventilation, and equipment.
- "(4) Carrying out generally the various provisions
  of this chapter for the protection of the peace, health,
  safety, and welfare of the public; and.
  - "(5) Carrying out a program for training of apprentice embalmers and apprentice funeral directors.
  - "(6) The sale of goods, services, and merchandise and the operation of entities and establishments regulated by the board.

"\$34-13-52**.** 

- "(a) Licenses under this chapter shall be granted to individuals upon the qualification and successful examination of the individual applicant and shall specify the name to whom it is issued. A license, registration, or certificate granted under this chapter shall be on public display.
- "(b) A funeral establishment license issued under this chapter shall include the name of the funeral establishment, the name of the managing funeral director, and the name of the managing embalmer, and the certificate of authority license number, if applicable. The license shall be on public display.
- "(c) Every license, certification, and registration issued under this chapter shall be signed by the chair and executive director and shall be displayed in the place of business or employment of the licensee.

1	"(d) Any person engaged in $\frac{1}{2}$ business,
2	profession, or practice of funeral directing licensed and
3	regulated pursuant to this chapter shall do each of the
4	following:
5	"(1) Possess on his or her person, or be able to
6	promptly produce, a legible and current Alabama funeral
7	director's board issued wallet license when performing the
8	duties of a funeral director any duty regulated pursuant to
9	this chapter.
10	"(2) Upon the request of a board member, the
11	executive director, $\frac{1}{1}$ the $\frac{1}{1}$ associate executive director, or a
12	designated and appropriately identified employee of the board,
13	promptly produce his or her legible and current Alabama
14	funeral director board issued wallet license certificate.
15	"(e) Any person engaged in the business, profession,
16	or practice of embalming shall do each of the following:
17	" <del>(1) Possess on his or her person, or be able to</del>
18	promptly produce, a legible and current Alabama embalmer's
19	wallet license when performing the duties of an embalmer.
20	"(2) Upon the request of a board member, the
21	executive director, the associate executive director, or a
22	designated and appropriately identified employee of the board,
23	promptly produce his or her legible and current Alabama
24	embalmer wallet license certificate.
25	"(f) Any person engaged in the business, profession,
26	or practice of cremation shall do each of the following:

"(1) Possess on his or her person, or be able to

promptly produce, a legible and current Alabama cremationist's

wallet license when performing the duties of a cremationist.

"(2) Upon the request of a board member, the executive director, the associate executive director, or a designated and appropriately identified employee of the board, promptly produce his or her legible and current Alabama cremationist wallet license certificate.

**"**§34-13-53.

"(a) (1) Before October 1, 2018, every licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer, and licensed operator shall pay annually a fee for renewal of his or her license.

The renewal fees shall be set by the board at a rate not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for licensed embalmers and funeral directors and five hundred dollars (\$500) for licensed operators.

"(2) Commencing on October 1, 2018, every(a)(1)

Every license, certificate, or registration issued by the board under this chapter shall be renewed biennially, unless otherwise provided by this chapter, upon submission by the licensee or registrant of a renewal application and a renewal fee established by board rule, not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), for each licensed cremationist, embalmer, funeral director, and funeral establishment license or certificate issued, unless otherwise provided by this chapter.

"(b) All licenses <u>and rcertificates</u> granted under this chapter shall expire on October 1, following their

issuance or renewal, <u>unless otherwise provided by this</u>

<u>chapter</u>, and shall become invalid unless renewed as provided

in this section and other requirements of the board are met.

In addition to payment of a renewal fee, each licensee shall

satisfy continuing education requirements prescribed by rule

of the board pursuant to subsection <del>(c)</del> (d).

"(c) There shall be no proration of licenses.

"(c)(d)(1) Commencing in 2014, and for each licensing period thereafter, the board may require persons seeking renewal of a cremationist, embalmer, or funeral director license, or multiple licenses, under this chapter to complete board approved continuing education of not less than eight hours biennially. The board may approve continuing education providers and courses offered by institutions of higher learning, specialty societies, associations, or professional organizations or by other organizations the board deems appropriate.

"(2) Any person who holds an inactive license or who is over the age of 65, with at least 10 years of experience in the funeral service industry, is exempt from the continuing education requirement.

"(3) An embalmer who is also a licensed funeral director and who completes the continuing education requirements for funeral directors is not required to complete additional continuing education requirements.

" $\frac{(4)}{(3)}$  Continuing education providers shall pay a biennial administrative fee established by board rule, not exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

"(5)(4) The board may promulgate adopt rules to implement and ensure compliance with this section.

"(d) The board shall publish on or before August 1 of the expiration year, in printed form, electronic image, in an online publication, or on the website of the board that is accessible to each licensed funeral director, licensed embalmer, licensed cremationist, and licensed establishment, notice that his or her renewal fee is due and payable and that, if such fee is not paid by September 30 of that year, the license shall expire. Information regarding license renewal dates and fees shall be available in electronic format on the website of the board.

"(e) Ninety days before the expiration date of a license, the board shall inform the licensee that his or her license renewal is due. Unless otherwise provided by this chapter, a renewal is past due if the renewal application is not received and the renewal fee is not paid 30 calendar days before the expiration date of the license.

" $\frac{(e)}{(f)}$  At the time, or before, a licensee changes place of employment, residence address, or makes any other change in status which is of record at the board office, the licensee shall report such change of status, by a method prescribed by the board, to the executive director.

"§34-13-54.

"No license to a cremationist, an embalmer, a funeral director, or a funeral establishment granted under or regulated by this chapter shall be transferable or assignable, unless otherwise authorized by this chapter.

"§34-13-55.

- "(a) When a licensee, for any reason, has allowed a license to expire, certificate, or registration renewal is past due, the board may reinstate renew the license, certificate, or registration if application for reinstatement renewal is made within a period of 30 days from the date of expiration becoming past due and is accompanied by payment of all past due penalties and fees, from the time of expiration to date of reinstatement. The past due penalties to be paid to the board shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) to reinstate licenses which have expired.
- "(b) After the 30-day period has elapsed, a license may be reinstated only by complying with the provisions of this chapter relating to the issuance of an original license in addition to payment of all fees and penalties with application for reactivation, payment of all fees and penalties, and approval by the board. The original application of the applicant seeking reactivation must be in the possession of the board.

"\$34-13-56**.** 

"(a) The board may refuse to license any person, entity, or establishment for violation of this chapter. If the board refuses to issue, grant, or renew a license based on a

violation of this chapter, including, but not limited to, violations listed in subsection (c), the licensee or prospective licensee may request a public hearing before the board to appeal the action of the board. The request for a public hearing shall be submitted to the board in writing within 14 calendar days after the date of the refusal. Upon request, the board shall provide the licensee or prospective licensee with 20 days' notice of the public hearing by United States certified mail. The public hearing shall be conducted pursuant to Section 34-13-26.

- "(b) A public hearing conducted pursuant to Section 34-13-26 shall be provided by the board to any licensee for whom the board is considering the probation, suspension, or revocation of a license.
- "(c) The board may suspend, revoke, or place on probation a license if the licensee is found guilty of any of the following:
  - "(1) Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, as defined by this chapter, including, but not limited to, any crime where the individual has to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction.
  - "(2) Unprofessional conduct, which is defined to include any of the following:
  - "a. Misrepresentation or fraud in the conduct of the business or the profession of a funeral director or embalmer any license issued pursuant to this chapter.

"b. False or misleading advertising as a funeral 1 2 director or embalmer licensee under this chapter or knowingly engaging in any advertising which is misleading or inaccurate 3 in any material particular. 4 5 "c. Solicitation of dead human bodies by the licensee, his or her agents, assistants, or employees, from 6 7 medical professionals or clergy, whether the solicitation occurs after death or while death is impending. 8 "d. Solicitation of dead human bodies by the 9 10 licensee, his or her agents, assistants, or employees whether the solicitation occurs after death or while death is 11 12 impending. 13 "e. Employment by the licensee of a person or 14 persons to be used for the purpose of obtaining or soliciting 15 funeral directing or embalming business, whether the 16 solicitation occurs after death or while death is impending. 17 "f. Employment directly or indirectly of any 18 apprentice, agent, assistant, embalmer, employee, or other person, on part or full time or on commission, for the purpose 19 2.0 of calling upon individuals or institutions where a death has 21 occurred or is imminent by whose influence dead human bodies 22 may be turned over to a particular funeral director or embalmer or funeral establishment, or both. 23 24 "q. The buying of business by the licensee, his or 25 her agents, assistants, or employees.

"h. Gross immorality.

1	"i. Aiding or abetting an unlicensed person,
2	establishment, or entity in the practice of funeral directing,
3	embalming, cremation, or conducting business as a funeral
4	establishment or crematory violation of this chapter.
5	"j. Using profane, indecent, or obscene language in
6	the presence of a dead human body, or within the immediate
7	hearing of the family or relative of a deceased whose body has
8	not yet been interred or otherwise disposed of.
9	"k. Solicitation or acceptance by a licensee of any
10	commission or bonus or rebate in consideration of recommending
11	or causing a dead human body to be disposed of in any
12	mausoleum or cemetery.
13	"l. Any violation of this chapter or order or rule
14	of the board.
15	"m. Any violation of state law or municipal or
16	county ordinance or regulation affecting the handling,
17	custody, care, <u>disposition</u> , or transportation of dead human
18	bodies.
19	"n. Fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining a
20	license.
21	"o. Refusing to promptly surrender the custody of a
22	dead human body, upon the express order and payment for
23	services rendered of the person lawfully entitled to the
24	custody thereof.
25	"p. Performing services in a professional capacity

as a funeral director or embalmer, or both, licensee for any

- unlicensed funeral establishment operating in violation of this chapter.
- "q. Being intoxicated or under the influence of illegal drugs while on duty at a funeral establishment or while performing any duty or responsibility for the funeral establishment prescribed by this chapter.
- 7 "r. Willfully retaining or willfully failing to account for any property of a decedent.
- 9 "s. Knowingly and willfully signing any
  10 documentation as having embalmed or prepared a body for burial
  11 when, in fact, the services were not performed by the
  12 licensee.
- "t. Failure to give full cooperation to the board or its designees, agents, or other representatives in the performance of official duties of the board.
- "u. Not furnishing <u>Failing to furnish</u> any relevant papers or documents requested by or for the board.

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- "v. Not furnishing Failing to furnish, in writing, an adequate explanation relating to a matter contained in a complaint filed with the board against the licensee.
  - "w. Not responding Failing to respond to a subpoena issued by the board, without good cause shown, whether or not the licensee is the party charged in any preceding proceeding before the board.
  - "x. Not providing reasonable access to the board or an authorized agent or representative of the board for the performance of reviews, investigations, or inspections at

facilities or places utilized by the licensee in the practice of funeral service or, funeral directing, or in performing any other activity regulated by the board.

"y. Failing to provide information within a specific time as required by the board or an authorized agent or representative of the board.

"z. Failing to cooperate with the board or an authorized agent or representative of the board in the investigation of any alleged misconduct or interfering with a board investigation through the willful misrepresentation of facts.

"aa. Deceiving or attempting to deceive the board regarding any matter under investigation, including the altering or destroying of any records.

"bb. Failure, without good cause, to cooperate with any request from the board to appear before the board.

"cc. Violating any statute, ordinance, or rule of the state or any board, agency, or political subdivision of the state affecting the registration of deaths, the handling, custody, care, <u>disposition</u>, or transportation of dead human bodies, or the sale of funeral services or funeral merchandise.

"dd. Demonstrating bad faith, incompetence, or untrustworthiness or dishonest, fraudulent, or improper dealing or any other violation of this chapter or any rule <a href="promulgated">promulgated</a> adopted by the board or promulgated by the Federal

Trade Commission relative to the practice of funeral service or funeral directing any activity regulated by the board.

"ee. Any other reason as determined by the board that would render an individual unsuitable for licensure or certification by the board.

"ff. A funeral home or funeral director licensee accepting funds for a preneed funeral contract or other prepayment of funeral or disposition expenses without a certificate of authority to sell preneed funeral contracts or, if registered to sell preneed funeral contracts, failing to deposit the funds with a qualified trustee or to timely remit premium payments from the consumer to the insurer.

"gg. Using any funeral merchandise previously sold without prior written permission of the person selecting or paying for the use of the merchandise. A previously used casket shell may be used for the viewing of remains if a new interior or interior insert is installed before each usage of the casket shell.

"(d) In addition to the disciplinary actions authorized in subsection (c), the board may levy and collect administrative fines for violations of this chapter or the rules or regulations of the board in an amount not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) for each violation, unless otherwise provided for in this chapter or by rule of the board.

"§34-13-56.1.

1	"(a) It is unlawful for any person or entity, for
2	hire or profit, to engage in, or hold himself, herself, or
3	itself out as qualified to engage in any of the following
4	business, profession, or practice regulated and licensed under
5	this chapter without a valid license, certification, or
6	registration issued by the board:
7	"(1) The practice of funeral directing.
8	"(2) The practice of embalming.
9	"(3) Practicing as an apprentice.
10	" <del>(4) Operating a crematory.</del>
11	"(5) Practicing as a cremationist.
12	"(b) Any person or entity who has been found to have
13	engaged in the unlawful unlicensed practice of funeral
14	directing, embalming, apprenticing, operating a crematory, or
15	cremating any activity regulated by the board pursuant to this
16	<pre>chapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than two</pre>
17	thousand five hundred dollars ( $$2,500$ ) for each violation and
18	other sanctions authorized by this chapter.
19	<b>"</b> §34-13-72.
20	"(a) An applicant for a funeral director's license
21	is entitled to an examination if he or she satisfies all of
22	the following:
23	"(1) Is a citizen of the United States or legally
24	present in this state.
25	"(2) Is at least 18 years of age.
26	"(3) Has <del>had practical experience as an apprentice</del>
27	for not less than two years within a period of three

by the active duty of the applicant in the military service of the United States or its allies during war or national emergency, and excluding time lost by interruptions which the board deems excusable as caused by circumstances beyond the control of the applicant completed an apprenticeship in accordance with this chapter and rule of the board.

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"(4) Has completed apprenticeship not more than two years prior to taking the examination, excluding time lost under the circumstances mentioned in subdivision (3).

"(5)(4) Has completed a course of instruction in an accredited mortuary or funeral service school or college which has been approved by the board pursuant to Section 34-13-50, or has completed a bachelor's degree program from an accredited school.

- "(5) Has completed an examination on state funeral service laws and rules.
- "(b) The board may certify an applicant to take an examination for a funeral director's license after verifying that the applicant has completed a course of instruction in funeral arts at an accredited mortuary or funeral service school or college meeting the criteria or standards as defined in this chapter. The board may not issue a funeral director's license to any applicant who has not completed a two-year apprenticeship.
- "(c) An applicant has two years from the expiration date of his or her last active apprentice certification to

successfully complete the examination for a funeral director's license pursuant to this chapter. Any applicant who fails to successfully pass the examination is required to serve a new apprenticeship in accordance with this chapter.

" $\frac{(d)(c)}{(c)}$  The board shall establish and charge a reasonable examination fee, based on actual costs, for each applicant who sits for an examination. In no event shall the fee exceed fifty dollars (\$50) above the actual cost of preparing and administering the examination.

"§34-13-73.

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"(a) The applicant for a funeral director's license, before the application is granted, shall successfully pass an examination upon, but not limited to, the following subjects: Funeral directing, the manners in which death may be determined, the laws governing the preparation and disposal of human dead bodies and the shipment of bodies dying from infectious or contagious diseases, and local health and sanitary ordinances in relation to funeral directing; funeral service management and administration; merchandising; cremation and other forms of disposition; funeral service psychology and counseling; funeral service law and ethics; any other courses of instruction related to the American Board of Funeral Service Education curriculum; and other courses of instruction in fundamental subjects as may be prescribed by the board. The examination shall be prepared and graded as prescribed by rule of the board. The board may review and adopt, in whole or in part, examination questions, forms,

Τ	examinations, and passing criteria proposed by the American
2	Board of Funeral Service Education, or a successor
3	organization, and may use the uniform nationwide conditions of
4	the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining
5	Boards, or other organization approved by the board.
6	"(b) The board shall examine applicants for a
7	funeral director's license in all of the following subjects:
8	"(1) Mortuary management and administration.
9	" <del>(2) Mortuary law.</del>
10	"(3) Basic accounting principles.
11	" <del>(4) Funeral directing.</del>
12	"(5) Other courses of instruction in fundamental
13	subjects as may be prescribed by the board.
14	"(c)(b) All examination papers shall be kept on file
15	by the board for at least three years.
16	"(d)(c) To constitute a passing grade, an applicant
17	shall earn <del>an average</del> <u>a</u> score <del>of at least 75 percent</del> <u>adopted</u>
18	by rule of the board.
19	"(e)(d) If the board is satisfied that an applicant
20	has the requisite qualifications to practice the occupation of
21	funeral directing, a license shall be issued authorizing the
22	applicant to practice such occupation until October 1 of that
23	year, at which time the license may be renewed as prescribed
24	in this chapter.
25	" $\frac{(f)}{(e)}$ The board may delegate the responsibility of
26	conducting or administering a license examination to any
27	qualified person or entity who is not a member of the board.

1 "<del>(g)</del>(f) An applicant may take the required license 2 examination during the time that his or her application for 3 license is pending. "\$34-13-92. 4 5 "(a) In order to qualify for a license as an embalmer, the applicant shall satisfy all of the following: 6 7 "(1) Be a citizen of the United States or legally present in this state. 8 "(2) Be over 18 years of age. 9 10 "(3) Be of good character. "(4) Have completed a two-year course of 11 12 apprenticeship under an embalmer or embalmers licensed and 13 engaged in practice as an embalmer in this state, and shall 14 have completed the required course of apprenticeship within a 15 period of three consecutive years, excluding time lost by 16 interruption caused by the active duty of the applicant in the 17 military service of the United States or its allies during war 18 or national emergency, and excluding time lost by 19 interruptions which the board deems excusable as caused by 20 circumstances beyond the control of the applicant an 21 apprenticeship in accordance with this chapter or rule of the 22 board. "(5) Have completed a course of instruction in an 23 24 embalming school or college which has been approved by the board as defined in Section 34-13-50. 25

more than two years before the date of examination, excluding

"(6) Have completed the course of apprenticeship not

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1	time	lost	under	the	circumstances	mentioned	in	subdivision
2	<del>(4).</del>							

- "(b) The board may certify an applicant to take an examination for an embalmer's license after verifying that the applicant has graduated from an accredited mortuary or funeral service school or college meeting the criteria or standards defined in this chapter. The board may not issue an embalmer's license to any applicant who has not completed a two-year apprenticeship.
- "(c) The board shall establish and charge a reasonable examination fee, based on actual costs, for each applicant who sits for an examination. In no event shall the fee exceed fifty dollars (\$50) above the actual cost of preparing and administering the examination.

"§34-13-94.

2.0

- "(a) The board shall examine applicants for an embalmer's license in all of the following subjects:
- "(1) Mortuary management and administration Embalming.
  - "(2) Legal medicine and toxicology Restorative Art.
- "(3) Public health, hygiene, and sanitary science
  Sciences related to embalming including, but not limited to:
  Pathology, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and chemistry.
- "(4) Mortuary science, to include embalming technique, in all aspects; chemistry of embalming, color harmony; discoloration, its causes, effect, and treatment; treatment of special cases; restorative art; funeral

1	management; and professional ethics The preparation of
2	unembalmed human remains for final disposition, including the
3	removal of medical devices, and identification viewing for
4	cremation or other forms of disposition that do not require
5	embalming.
6	"(5) Anatomy and physiology.
7	"(6) Chemistry, organic and inorganic.
8	" <del>(7) Pathology.</del>
9	" <del>(8) Bacteriology.</del>
10	" <del>(9) Sanitation and hygiene.</del>
11	" <del>(10) Public health regulations.</del>
12	" $\frac{(11)}{(5)}$ Other courses of instruction related to the
13	American Board of Funeral Service Education curriculum or
14	other courses of instruction in fundamental subjects as may be
15	prescribed by the board.
16	"(b) All examination papers shall be kept on file by
17	the board for at least three years.
18	"(c) To constitute a passing grade, an applicant
19	shall earn <del>an average</del> <u>a</u> score <del>of at least 75 percent</del> <u>adopted</u>
20	by rule of the board.
21	"(d) The board may issue an embalmer's license to an
22	applicant who receives a passing grade on a recognized
23	national embalmer's examination approved by the board.
24	"(e) If the board is satisfied that the applicant
25	has the requisite qualifications to practice the occupation of
26	embalming, a license shall be issued to him or her authorizing
27	him or her to practice such occupation until October 1 of that

- year, at which time the license may be renewed as prescribed in this chapter.
  - "(f) The board may delegate the responsibility of conducting or administering a license examination to any qualified person or entity who is not a member of the board.
    - "(g) An applicant may take the required license examination during the time that his or her application for license is pending.

"§34-13-113**.** 

2.0

- "(a) Application for a license to operate a funeral establishment shall be made in writing on a form provided by the board. The application shall be verified by the applicant or, if the applicant is a corporation, firm, or other organization, by an officer or member thereof, and shall be accompanied by an application fee established by the board not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) and proof of liability insurance as provided in subsection (e). The application shall disclose all of the following:
  - "(1) The name and address of the establishment.
- "(2) That the establishment is operated by a managing funeral director and a managing embalmer or a person licensed both as a funeral director and embalmer.
- "(3) A description and photographs of the buildings, equipment, and facilities of the establishment.
- "(4) That the establishment has a sanitary, properly equipped embalming room, a room suitable for public viewing or other funeral services that is able to accommodate a minimum

of 100 people a minimum of 1,000 square feet, an office for arrangement conferences with relatives or authorized representatives, and a display room containing a stock of adult caskets and funeral supplies displayed in full size, cuts, photographs, or electronic images. At no time shall less than eight different adult full size caskets and at least one operating and properly licensed funeral coach or hearse equipped for transporting human remains in a casket or urn be on the premises. A funeral establishment, that has more than one location under the same ownership wherein the profession of funeral directing is practiced, is not required to maintain more than one preparation room upon satisfying requirements prescribed by the board.

- "(5) Such other information as may be required by the board.
- "(b) Upon receipt of the application, the board shall make inspection of the funeral establishment. If the board determines that the establishment meets the qualifications prescribed by law, it shall issue a license to operate a funeral establishment.
- "(c) Application for a license to operate a mortuary service shall be made in writing on a form provided by the board. The application shall be verified by the applicant or, if the applicant is a corporation, firm, or other organization, by an officer or member thereof, and shall be accompanied by an application fee established by the board not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) and proof of liability

insurance as provided in subsection (e). The application shall 1 2 disclose all of the following: "(1) The name and address of the proposed mortuary 3 service. 4 5 "(2) That the mortuary service applicant is operated by a licensed embalmer or a person licensed both as a funeral 6 7 director and embalmer. "(3) A description and photographs of the buildings, 8 equipment, and facilities of the mortuary service applicant. 9 10 "(4) That the mortuary service applicant has a sanitary, properly equipped embalming room. 11 "(5) Such other information as may be required by 12 13 the board. 14 "(d) Upon receipt of the application, the board 15 shall make inspection of the premises of the mortuary service 16 applicant. If the board determines that the mortuary service 17 applicant meets the qualifications prescribed by law, the 18 board shall issue a license to operate a mortuary service. "(e) Commencing on October 1, 2023, each application 19 20 for a license to operate a funeral establishment or to operate 21 a mortuary service shall include proof of general liability 22 insurance in an amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Upon request of the board, proof of continuing 23 24 coverage shall also be provided for the renewal of either 25 license.

"\$34-13-130.

"(a) Every person desiring to engage as an apprentice shall satisfy all of the following:

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"(1) Make application as a funeral director's apprentice or an embalmer's apprentice to the board upon a form provided by the board. The applicant shall submit to the board a form, sworn to by the applicant, that contains the name, date of birth, and Social Security number of the applicant, and two complete sets of fingerprints, for completion of a criminal history background check. The board shall submit the fingerprints to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency for a state criminal history record check. The fingerprints shall be forwarded by the agency to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. Costs associated with conducting a criminal history background check shall be paid by the applicant. The board shall keep information received pursuant to this subsection confidential, except that information received and relied upon in denying the issuance of an apprentice certification may be disclosed if necessary to support the denial.

- "(2) Be over the age of 18.
- "(3) Hold a high school certificate or the equivalent.
  - "(4) Be of good moral character.
  - "(b) The Each application shall be verified by the oath of the applicant and be accompanied by a fee to be

established by the board, not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20)

fifty dollars (\$50).

- "(c) The executive director, whenever it appears to him or her that no reason exists for the denial of an application and that the application is regular upon its face, may issue to the applicant a certificate of apprenticeship, without submitting the application to the board. If, however, any doubt exists as to the qualifications of the applicant, the application shall be submitted to the board and may be accepted or rejected by a majority of the board.
- "(d) The period course of an apprenticeship of a funeral director's apprentice or an embalmer's apprentice shall be in accordance with this chapter or prescribed by rule of the board and performed in Alabama under the supervision of a funeral director or embalmer, respectively, licensed by the board.
- "(e) A licensed funeral director or a licensed
  embalmer may supervise no more than three apprentices at any
  given time, unless otherwise provided for by the board.
- "(f) Only a licensed funeral director or licensed embalmer, whose license is in good standing, may supervise an apprentice.
- "(g) The regular course of apprenticeship shall be two years, but the apprentice is entitled to two weeks time off each year, without leave of absence from the board.
- "(h) An apprentice shall be enrolled in the funeral service program at an accredited mortuary school within one

year after the original start date of his or her apprenticeship. If an apprentice is not enrolled in mortuary school within that time period, then the apprenticeship may not be renewed and the apprenticeship may not be reactivated until the apprentice provides proof of enrollment.

"\$34-13-131.

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"(a) A certificate of apprenticeship issued as provided for in accordance with this chapter shall be signed by the apprentice and shall be renewable annually upon the payment by the holder by October 1 of each year of an annual renewal fee to be established by the board, not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20). Failure to pay the renewal fee by the prescribed date of any year shall cause the certificate to become delinquent, in which case it shall be renewed only for good cause shown. No person may be granted a certificate of apprenticeship as funeral director's apprentice or embalmer's apprentice, respectively, for more than three consecutive years, excepting as provided. The board shall send, on or before August 1 of each year, to each registered apprentice at his or her last known address, a notice that his or her renewal fee is due and payable and that, if not paid by October 1, his or her license shall lapse renewed annually in accordance with Section 34-13-53.

"(b)(1) If an apprentice fails to renew their apprentice certification in accordance with this chapter, the certification may be reinstated with application for

reactivation, payment of all fees and penalties, and approval
by the board within a period prescribed by the board.

"(2) Only one course of apprenticeship shall be allowed, and not more than two reactivations shall be granted by the board during the course of the apprenticeship.

"(3) The board may allow an apprentice credit under a reactivation for time served under a previous certificate.

"\$34-13-132.

"All apprentices registered as provided in this chapter shall be under the supervision and control of the board and shall be required to report to the board annually on October 1, upon forms provided by the board, showing the work which such apprentices have performed during the annual period preceding the first of the month on which the report is made, including the number of hours served and the number of bodies the apprentice has assisted in embalming or otherwise prepared for disposition during such period include with their annual renewal case reports, an annual report and skills evaluation on a form prescribed by the board. The information contained in the report shall be certified to as correct by the funeral director or embalmer by whom the apprentice has been employed during his or her apprenticeship period.

**"**\$34-13-134.

"(a) The board has power to suspend, revoke, or place on probation a certificate of apprenticeship where the apprentice is guilty of any of the following acts or omissions:

- "(1) Failure to devote not less than an average of 30 hours per week to the duties of his or her apprenticeship.
- "(2) Failure to make an annual report to the board as required by this chapter.
  - "(3) Absence from duty except on vacation for an aggregate of more than 10 days in any six months or 20 days in any year, without leave of absence granted by the board.
    - "(4) Gross immorality.

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- 9 "(5) Being on duty as an apprentice while under the 10 influence of liquor or illegal drugs.
  - "(6) Disobedience of proper orders or instructions of his or her superiors.
  - "(7) Violation of this chapter or any rule of the board adopted pursuant to this chapter.
  - "(8) Soliciting business for a funeral director or for any embalmer.
  - "(9) Fraud or misrepresentation in obtaining a certificate as an apprentice.

"(b) An apprentice who has failed to renew his or her certificate, or who has had his or her certificate of apprenticeship suspended or revoked, within one year after such expiration, suspension, or revocation, may make application for reactivation. Not more than two reactivations shall be allowed by the board. The board, when the circumstances warrant, may allow an apprentice credit under a reactivation for time actually served under a previous certificate; except, that if the previous certificate has been

1	suspended or revoked upon any of the grounds set forth in
2	subsection (a), not more than 75 percent of the time
3	previously served shall be credited on the reactivation."
4	Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
5	first day of the first month following its passage and
6	approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.