

HB 394 -- Designation of Next-of-Kin

Co-Sponsors: Byrd, St. Onge, Stevenson, Wood, Pratt

This bill defines "next-of-kin" for purposes of Chapter 193, RSMo (Vital Statistics); Chapter 194 (Death-Disposition of Dead Bodies); Chapter 333 (Embalmers and Funeral Directors); and Chapter 436 (Special Purpose Contracts). Deceased persons' next-of-kin may control final disposition of the remains if they assume all costs for disposition. Funeral directors are entitled to rely and act on the lawful instructions of the claimed next-of-kin. A person can designate any person to be his or her next-of-kin by a verified written instrument, including a will or trust.