

HB 585 -- RIGHT OF SEPULCHER (Houx)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Judiciary

Current law provides a list, in the order of priority, of next-of-kin who have the right to control the disposition of a dead human body. This bill provides that the surviving spouse will not be considered as next-of-kin if an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed and is pending in a court of competent jurisdiction. Additionally, the next-of-kin of a deceased person may delegate the final disposition of the deceased to an agent through a power of attorney.

Under this bill, an individual with a superior claim to the disposition of the deceased may be notified in person or by written notice with delivery confirmation, rather than "personally served with written notice" by a person with an inferior claim who has the desire to exercise the right to control the final disposition of the deceased.