

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5117**

A bill to amend 1998 PA 386, entitled  
"Estates and protected individuals code,"  
by amending section 3206 (MCL 700.3206), as amended by 2020 PA 246.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 3206. (1) Subject to 1953 PA 181, MCL 52.201 to 52.216,  
2 part 28 and article 10 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL  
3 333.2801 to 333.2899 and 333.10101 to 333.11101, and subsection  
4 (12), a funeral representative designated under subsection (2), a  
5 person with priority under subsections (3) to (5) or a person  
6 acting under subsection (6), (7), (8), or (9) is presumed to have  
7 the right and power to make decisions about funeral arrangements  
8 and the handling, disposition, or disinterment of a decedent's  
9 body, including, but not limited to, decisions about cremation, and

1 the right to retrieve from the funeral establishment and possess  
2 cremated remains of the decedent immediately after cremation. The  
3 handling, disposition, or disinterment of a body must be under the  
4 supervision of a person licensed to practice mortuary science in  
5 this state.

6 (2) Subject to section 1202, and except as otherwise provided  
7 in this subsection and subject to the priority in subsection (3),  
8 an individual 18 years of age or older who is of sound mind at the  
9 time a funeral representative designation is made may designate in  
10 writing another individual who is 18 years of age or older and who  
11 is of sound mind to have the rights and powers under subsection  
12 (1). All of the following apply to a funeral representative  
13 designation under this subsection:

14 (a) For purposes of this section and sections 3206a and 3206b,  
15 an individual who is named in a funeral representative designation  
16 to have the rights and powers described in subsection (1) is known  
17 as a funeral representative and an individual who makes a funeral  
18 representative designation is known as a declarant.

19 (b) A funeral representative designation under this subsection  
20 must be in writing, dated, and signed voluntarily by the declarant  
21 or signed by a notary public on the declarant's behalf under  
22 section 33 of the Michigan law on notarial acts, 2003 PA 238, MCL  
23 55.293. A funeral representative designation may be included in the  
24 declarant's will, patient advocate designation, or other writing.  
25 If a funeral representative designation is contained in an  
26 individual's will, the will is not required to be admitted to  
27 probate for the funeral representative designation to be valid. A  
28 funeral representative designation must be 1 or both of the  
29 following:

1           (i) Signed in the presence of and signed by 2 witnesses. A  
2 witness under this section may not be the funeral representative or  
3 an individual described in subdivision (c) (ii) to (iv). A witness  
4 shall not sign the funeral representative designation unless the  
5 declarant appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud,  
6 or undue influence.

7           (ii) Acknowledged by the declarant before a notary public, who  
8 endorses on the funeral representative designation a certificate of  
9 the acknowledgment and the true date of taking the acknowledgment.

10          (c) The following individuals may not act as a funeral  
11 representative for the declarant unless the individual is the  
12 surviving spouse or is a relative of the declarant:

13           (i) An officer, partner, member, shareholder, owner,  
14 representative, or employee of a funeral establishment that will  
15 provide services to the declarant.

16           (ii) A health professional, or an employee of or volunteer at a  
17 health facility or veterans facility, who provided medical  
18 treatment or nursing care to the declarant during the final illness  
19 or immediately before the declarant's death, or a partner, member,  
20 shareholder, owner, or representative of the health facility where  
21 medical treatment or nursing care was provided.

22           (iii) An officer, partner, member, shareholder, owner,  
23 representative, or employee of a cemetery at which the declarant's  
24 body will be interred, entombed, or inurned.

25           (iv) An officer, partner, member, shareholder, owner,  
26 representative, or employee of a crematory that will provide the  
27 declarant's cremation services.

28          (3) The following have the rights and powers under subsection  
29 (1) in the following order of priority:

1 (a) If the decedent was a service member at the time of the  
2 decedent's death, a person designated to direct the disposition of  
3 the service member's remains according to a statute of the United  
4 States or regulation, policy, directive, or instruction of the  
5 Department of Defense.

6 (b) A funeral representative designated under subsection (2).

7 (c) The surviving spouse.

8 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), the individual or individuals  
9 18 years of age or older in the following order of priority:

10 (i) The decedent's children.

11 (ii) The decedent's grandchildren.

12 (iii) The decedent's parents.

13 (iv) The decedent's grandparents.

14 (v) The decedent's siblings.

15 (vi) A descendant of the decedent's parents who first notifies  
16 the funeral establishment in possession of the decedent's body of  
17 the descendant's decision to exercise his or her rights under  
18 subsection (1).

19 (vii) A descendant of the decedent's grandparents who first  
20 notifies the funeral establishment in possession of the decedent's  
21 body of the descendant's decision to exercise his or her rights  
22 under subsection (1).

23 (e) If an individual described in subdivision (d) had the  
24 right to dispose of the decedent's body under subsection (1), but  
25 affirmatively declined to exercise his or her right or failed to  
26 exercise his or her right within 48 hours after receiving  
27 notification of the decedent's death, the individual does not have  
28 the right to make a decision about the disinterment of the  
29 decedent's body or possession of the decedent's cremated remains.

1           (4) If the individual or individuals with the highest priority  
 2 as determined under subsection (3) cannot be located after a good-  
 3 faith effort to contact and inform them of the decedent's death  
 4 **within 72 hours after the pronouncement of the decedent's death**  
 5 **under the determination of death act, 1992 PA 90, MCL 333.1031 to**  
 6 **333.1034,** affirmatively decline to exercise their rights or powers  
 7 under subsection (1), or fail to exercise their rights or powers  
 8 under subsection (1) within ~~48~~**72** hours after ~~receiving~~  
 9 ~~notification~~**the pronouncement** of the decedent's death **under the**  
 10 **determination of death act, 1992 PA 90, MCL 333.1031 to 333.1034,**  
 11 the rights and powers under subsection (1) may be exercised by the  
 12 individual or individuals in the same order of priority under  
 13 subsection (3). If the individual or each of the individuals in an  
 14 order of priority as determined under this subsection similarly  
 15 affirmatively declines ~~or fails to exercise his or her rights or~~  
 16 ~~powers within 48 hours after receiving notification that he or she~~  
 17 ~~may act under this subsection~~ or cannot be located, the rights or  
 18 powers under subsection (1) pass to the next order of priority  
 19 under subsection (3). For purposes of this subsection only,  
 20 "exercise their rights or powers under subsection (1)" means  
 21 ~~notifying the funeral establishment in possession of the decedent's~~  
 22 ~~body of an individual's decision to exercise his or her rights or~~  
 23 ~~powers under subsection (1).~~**providing the person that holds a**  
 24 **license under article 18 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL**  
 25 **339.1801 to 339.1812, in possession of the decedent's body with**  
 26 **authorization to bury or cremate the decedent's body.**

27           (5) If 2 or more individuals share the rights and powers  
 28 described in subsection (1) as determined under subsection (3) or  
 29 (4), the rights and powers must be exercised as decided by a

1 majority of the individuals who can be located after reasonable  
2 efforts. If a majority cannot agree, any of the individuals may  
3 file a petition under section 3207.

4 (6) If no individual described in subsections (3) and (4)  
5 exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection (1), or can  
6 be located after a sufficient attempt as described in subsection  
7 (10), and if subsection (7) does not apply, then the personal  
8 representative or nominated personal representative may exercise  
9 the rights and powers under subsection (1), either before or after  
10 his or her appointment.

11 (7) If no individual described in subsections (3) and (4)  
12 exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection (1), or can  
13 be located after a sufficient attempt as described in subsection  
14 (10), and if the decedent was under a guardianship at the time of  
15 death, the guardian may exercise the rights and powers under  
16 subsection (1) and may make a claim for the reimbursement of burial  
17 expenses as provided in section 5216 or 5315, as applicable.

18 (8) If no individual described in subsections (3) and (4)  
19 exists, exercises the rights or powers under subsection (1), or can  
20 be located after a sufficient attempt as described in subsection  
21 (10), if the decedent died intestate, and if subsection (7) does  
22 not apply, a special fiduciary appointed under section 1309 or a  
23 special personal representative appointed under section 3614(c) may  
24 exercise the rights and powers under subsection (1).

25 (9) If there is no person under subsections (3) to (8) to  
26 exercise the rights and powers under subsection (1), **or if there is**  
27 **a person under subsections (3) to (8) to exercise the rights and**  
28 **powers under subsection (1) and the person fails to exercise the**  
29 **rights and powers under subsection (1) within 7 days after the**

1 **decedent's death**, 1 of the following, as applicable, shall exercise  
2 the rights and powers under subsection (1):

3 (a) Unless subdivision (b) applies, the medical examiner for  
4 the county where the decedent was domiciled at the time of his or  
5 her death.

6 (b) If the decedent was incarcerated in a state correctional  
7 facility at the time of his or her death, the director of the  
8 department of corrections or the designee of the director.

9 (10) An attempt to locate a person described in subsection (3)  
10 or (4) is sufficient if a reasonable attempt is made in good faith  
11 by ~~a family member, personal representative, or nominated personal~~  
12 ~~representative of the decedent~~ **any of the following** to contact the  
13 person at his or her last known address, telephone number, or  
14 ~~electronic mail~~ **email** address: -

15 (a) **A family member, personal representative, or nominated**  
16 **personal representative of the decedent.**

17 (b) **A health facility or veteran's facility that provided**  
18 **medical treatment to the decedent during the final illness or**  
19 **immediately before the decedent's death.**

20 (11) This section does not void or otherwise affect an  
21 anatomical gift made under part 101 of the public health code, 1978  
22 PA 368, MCL 333.10101 to 333.10123.

23 (12) An individual who has been criminally charged with the  
24 intentional killing of the decedent shall not exercise a right  
25 under subsection (1) while the charges are pending.

26 (13) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person  
27 who has the rights and powers under subsection (1) and who  
28 exercises the right over the disposition of the decedent's body  
29 must ensure payment for the costs of the disposition through a

1 trust, insurance, a commitment by another person, a prepaid  
2 contract under the prepaid funeral and cemetery sales act, 1986 PA  
3 255, MCL 328.211 to 328.235, or other effective and binding means.  
4 To the extent payment is not ensured under this subsection, the  
5 person described in this subsection is liable for the costs of the  
6 disposition. This subsection does not apply to a person who  
7 exercises the rights and powers under subsection (1) as provided in  
8 subsection (8) or (9).

9 (14) As used in this section:

10 (a) "Armed forces" means the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine  
11 Corps, Coast Guard, or other military force designated by Congress  
12 as part of the Armed Forces of the United States.

13 (b) "Health facility" means that term as defined in section  
14 5653 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5653.

15 (c) "Health professional" means that term as defined in  
16 section 5883 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5883.

17 (d) "Medical treatment" means that term as defined in section  
18 5653 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.5653.

19 (e) "Michigan National Guard" means that term as defined in  
20 section 105 of the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505.

21 (f) "Nominated personal representative" means a person  
22 nominated to act as personal representative in a will that the  
23 nominated person reasonably believes to be the valid will of the  
24 decedent.

25 (g) "Service member" means a member of the armed forces, a  
26 reserve branch of the armed forces, or the Michigan National Guard.