

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3940**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 4, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for regulation of funeral arranging.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/11/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning the practice of funeral arranging and  
2 supplementing P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) and amending  
3 various parts of the statutory law.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. The statutory framework for the licensure of funeral service  
10 professionals dates back almost 70 years ago to the “Mortuary  
11 Science Act,” P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), in an era when  
12 New Jersey was very different from the culturally and religiously  
13 diverse State that exists today, and when consumers had far less  
14 choice in all aspects of daily life, including funeral arrangements.

15 b. While prior to the enactment of the “Mortuary Science Act,”  
16 funeral service professionals had options to be licensed as funeral  
17 directors, embalmers, or both, the law enacted in 1952 established a  
18 unified licensing system, under which licensed funeral service  
19 professionals, defined as practitioners of mortuary science, must be  
20 proficient in both funeral directing, otherwise known as funeral arts,  
21 and embalming, known as funeral science.

22 c. While the current funeral professional licensing system  
23 serves the traditional but rapidly disappearing New Jersey well, it  
24 has become abundantly clear that for religious, cultural,  
25 environmental, and personal philosophy reasons, a steadily  
26 increasing number of funerals center around cremation or burial  
27 without embalming.

28 d. The current funeral professional licensing system does not  
29 recognize that some religions forbid embalming prior to burial or  
30 cremation, an oversight that New Jersey’s flourishing diversity  
31 makes even more pronounced.

32 e. A developing interest in “green” burials incorporating  
33 environmentally-friendly measures into end-of-life rituals may also  
34 reduce the prevalence of embalming.

35 f. The existing funeral professional licensing system, by  
36 requiring proficiency in embalming for licensure as a funeral  
37 professional, discourages entry into the funeral services profession  
38 of persons who are reluctant to practice embalming but would be  
39 eager to serve their communities by arranging funerals.

40 g. During the last several years, and particularly during the  
41 2019 coronavirus pandemic, it has become clear that there is a  
42 shortage of licensed funeral service professionals in New Jersey, a  
43 problem which, in part, could be remedied by removing outmoded  
44 barriers to entering the funeral services profession.

45 h. Therefore, it is in the public interest to revise the existing  
46 system of funeral professional licensure to more readily

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 accommodate religious and cultural beliefs as well as to promote  
2 consumer choice, by providing for, in addition to the current  
3 licensure of practitioners of mortuary science, the licensure of  
4 funeral arrangers.

5

6 2. Section 3 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-34) is amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 3. As used in **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.):

9 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Mortuary Science of New  
10 Jersey.

11 (b) "Embalming" means the disinfecting or preservation of a  
12 dead human body, entirely or in part by the use of chemical  
13 substances, fluids or gases in the body, or by introduction of the  
14 same into the body by vascular or hypodermic injection, or by  
15 direct application into the organs or cavities.

16 (c) "Funeral directing" means (1) the engaging in or conducting  
17 or holding one's self out as being engaged in or conducting the  
18 preparation (other than embalming) for burial or disposal and the  
19 direction or supervision of burial or disposal of dead human bodies;  
20 or (2) maintaining, using or operating a mortuary; or (3) in  
21 connection with one's name or mortuary using the words  
22 "mortician" or "funeral director" or "undertaker" or any other words  
23 or title of like import or signification.

24 "Funeral directing" also means the engaging in or making, or  
25 holding one's self out as being engaged in or making, funeral  
26 arrangements, including at need funeral arrangements or preneed  
27 funeral arrangements; or the offering or holding one's self out as  
28 offering the opportunity to purchase or enroll in a prepaid funeral  
29 agreement. As used in this definition, "funeral arrangements," "at  
30 need funeral arrangements," "preneed funeral arrangements" and  
31 "prepaid funeral agreement" shall have the same meaning as they  
32 are defined in section 1 of P.L.1993, c.147 (C.45:7-82).

33 (d) "Mortuary science" means embalming and funeral directing,  
34 as the same are herein defined.

35 (e) "Embalmer" means a qualified person who practices or  
36 engages in embalming, as the same is herein defined.

37 (f) "Funeral director" includes "undertaker" and "mortician" and  
38 means a qualified person who practices or engages in funeral  
39 directing, as the same is herein defined.

40 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person  
41 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein  
42 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **【this**  
43 **act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) as a practitioner of  
44 mortuary science, or (2) holds a license as both an embalmer and a  
45 funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this  
46 State, or (3) holds a license as an embalmer under the provisions of  
47 any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed  
48 under the provisions of section 21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) as

1 a funeral director, or (4) holds a license as a funeral director under  
2 the provisions of any prior law or laws of this State and shall have  
3 been licensed under the provisions of section 21 of P.L.1952, c.340  
4 (C.45:7-52) as an embalmer.

5 (h) "Mortuary" means any place or premises devoted to or used  
6 in the care and preparation for burial, disposition, or transportation  
7 of dead human bodies, or any specifically designated location or  
8 address where any person or persons shall hold forth that he, she, or  
9 they are engaged in the practice of mortuary science, embalming or  
10 funeral directing, and shall mean and include any premises of any  
11 kind whatsoever in which mortuary science in any of its branches is  
12 practiced or in which more than five funerals may be conducted in  
13 any calendar year, except publicly owned buildings, places of  
14 worship and meeting places of fraternal organizations.

15 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered  
16 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in  
17 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science or as a  
18 funeral arranger under the personal instruction and supervision of a  
19 person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or as a  
20 funeral arranger and who has an annual case volume as hereinafter  
21 provided in section 18 of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et  
22 seq.). A person seeking licensure in funeral arranging may learn to  
23 practice as a registered trainee in funeral arranging from a licensed  
24 practitioner in mortuary science, provided that such training solely  
25 focuses on funeral directing, or from a licensed funeral arranger.

26 (j) "Funeral arranger" means a person who practices or engages  
27 in funeral directing, as defined in this section, and is licensed  
28 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.).

29 (cf: P.L.1993, c.147, s.14)

30  
31 3. Section 4 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-35) is amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 4. There is hereby created in the Division of Consumer Affairs  
34 in the Department of Law and Public Safety a State Board of  
35 Mortuary Science of New Jersey, which board shall consist of 13  
36 members as follows: two shall be public members and one shall be  
37 a State executive department member appointed pursuant to the  
38 provisions of **【P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:2.1 et seq.)】** section 2 of  
39 P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.2); eight members, each of whom shall be  
40 a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New  
41 Jersey, at least four of whom shall be duly licensed as a practitioner  
42 of mortuary science or as a funeral arranger and shall have had a  
43 minimum of five consecutive years of experience and practice as a  
44 practitioner of mortuary science in this State immediately preceding  
45 his appointment; at least two of whom shall be duly licensed as  
46 funeral arrangers, except for the members first appointed, of whom  
47 two shall be in the funeral arranging industry and of which one  
48 member shall serve for a term of four years and one member shall

1 serve for a term of three years; and two members who provide  
2 services as licensed practitioners of mortuary science or licensed  
3 funeral arrangers, or of which one is a licensed practitioner of  
4 mortuary science and one is a licensed funeral arranger; and two  
5 additional public members, one of whom shall be 62 years of age or  
6 older. **【Members】** Except for one member first appointed to  
7 represent funeral arranging, members of the board shall be  
8 appointed annually by the Governor for a term of three years and  
9 shall not serve more than two successive terms. Each member,  
10 other than the State executive department member, shall hold office  
11 after the expiration of his term of office until his successor shall be  
12 duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies occurring by reason of the  
13 expiration of term of office shall be filled by the Governor in the  
14 calendar year in which any such vacancy occurs for a term of three  
15 years from the year of appointment. Vacancies occurring by reason  
16 of the failure or neglect of the Governor to make appointments  
17 upon the expiration of terms of office as hereinabove provided and  
18 vacancies occurring for any other reason whatsoever shall be filled  
19 by the Governor for the unexpired term only.

20 Any member of the State Board of Mortuary Science of New  
21 Jersey, other than the State executive department member, may be  
22 removed from office by the Governor, for cause, upon notice and  
23 opportunity to be heard.

24 The Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors of the State of  
25 New Jersey is hereby abolished and all of its functions, powers and  
26 duties, except as may be inconsistent with the provisions of **【this**  
27 **act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-34 et seq.), are hereby transferred to  
28 and vested in the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey  
29 established hereunder. The State Board of Mortuary Science of  
30 New Jersey established hereunder and its functions, powers and  
31 duties shall in all respects be subject to the provisions of sections  
32 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, 39 and 40 of P.L.1948, c.439 (C.52:17B-30,  
33 52:17B-32, 52:17B-33, 52:17B-35, 52:17B-37, 52:17B-39 and  
34 52:17B-40).

35 (cf: P.L.2003. c.10)

36

37 4. Section 7 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-38) is amended to read  
38 as follows:

39 7. The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules  
40 and regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any  
41 amendment or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall  
42 be reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or  
43 improvement of the standards of service, protection and practice to  
44 be followed in the practice of mortuary science, embalming and  
45 funeral directing , and funeral arranging by individuals,  
46 corporations, partnerships and associations in the State of New  
47 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of  
48 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

1 In addition to the powers otherwise herein granted to the board,  
2 the board is specifically empowered to adopt rules and regulations  
3 concerning the following:

4 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is  
5 conducted,

6 (b) establish minimum requirements for a preparation room and  
7 as to the manner in which it shall be maintained,

8 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

9 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

10 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

11 (f) practice of mortuary science or funeral arranging by  
12 individuals, corporations, partnerships and associations.

13 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.4)

14  
15 5. Section 10 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-41) is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 10. The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the  
18 board, shall exercise and perform all duties and functions incidental  
19 to his office and such other duties and functions as may be assigned  
20 by the board. He shall receive such compensation for his services,  
21 within the limits of available appropriations therefor, and shall give  
22 such bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the board  
23 may, with the approval of the Attorney-General, determine.

24 The secretary of the board shall keep a record in which shall be  
25 registered the name and professional address of every person to  
26 whom licenses have been granted in accordance with the provisions  
27 of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or in accordance  
28 with the provisions of prior laws of this State, the number and date  
29 of such license and the date of each renewal thereof.

30 The secretary shall, whenever requested so to do, certify over the  
31 seal of the board, whether the records kept by the board show or fail  
32 to show a license to carry on the practice of mortuary science **【or】** ,  
33 of embalming or funeral directing, or both, or of funeral arranging  
34 or the issuance of any renewal of any such licenses or whether any  
35 person has or has not a license in full force and effect. The fee for  
36 any such certificate shall be one dollar (\$1.00). Any such  
37 certificate, whether made by the secretary upon such request or for  
38 use in proceedings before the board or in which the board may be a  
39 party, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated.

40 In the month of January of each and every year the secretary of  
41 said board shall supply to each **【licensed practitioner of mortuary**  
42 **science, to each licensed embalmer and to each licensed funeral**  
43 **director】** board licensee a list of all practitioners **【of mortuary**  
44 **science, embalmers, and funeral directors】** holding a license under  
45 **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or under prior laws  
46 of this State, giving the names of such persons, their professional  
47 address and the number and nature of their licenses.

48 (cf: P.L.1952, c.340, s.10)

1       6. Section 12 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-43) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       12. The board may, subject to the approval of the Attorney  
4 General, appoint, employ or remove such assistants and employees  
5 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of **【this act】**  
6 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.). The board may, subject to the  
7 approval of the Attorney General, appoint and employ an executive  
8 secretary who shall serve without term but who may be removed  
9 from office by the Attorney General, for cause, upon notice and  
10 opportunity to be heard at a public hearing. The duties of the  
11 executive secretary shall be determined by the board and the board  
12 shall fix the compensation of its executive secretary, assistants and  
13 employees, subject to the approval of the Attorney General, within  
14 the limits of available appropriations therefor. Such executive  
15 secretary shall not be subject to the provisions of Title 11 of the  
16 Revised Statutes of this State. No such executive secretary,  
17 employee or assistant shall engage in the practice of mortuary  
18 science, embalming **【or】** , funeral directing, or funeral arranging,  
19 nor shall he in any way be connected with the work of a practitioner  
20 of mortuary science, embalming **【or】** , funeral directing, or funeral  
21 arranging.  
22 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.3)

23  
24       7. Section 16 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-47) is amended to  
25 read as follows:

26       16. No person shall engage in the practice of mortuary science,  
27 embalming **【or】**, funeral directing, or funeral arranging, unless he  
28 shall have been duly licensed so to do, by the board, under the  
29 provisions of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or  
30 under the provisions of any prior law of this State and unless such  
31 license is unrevoked and in full force and effect; provided, that this  
32 shall not apply to a registered trainee working under the direct  
33 supervision of a practitioner of mortuary science or of funeral  
34 arranging.  
35 (cf: P.L.1952, c.340, s.16)

36  
37       8. Section 17 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-48) is amended to  
38 read as follows:

39       17. The board shall grant **【only a single】** a license as a  
40 practitioner of mortuary science or as a funeral arranger to **【any】** an  
41 applicant, and **【any】** a person shall hold a license as a practitioner  
42 of mortuary science or as a funeral arranger issued under the  
43 provisions of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) before  
44 being permitted to practice mortuary science **【or】**, embalming **【or】**,  
45 funeral directing , or funeral arranging in this State.  
46 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.6)

1       9. Section 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       18. **[(a)]** a. Every person desiring to enter into the practice of  
4 mortuary science or the practice of funeral arranging, before being  
5 licensed by the board:

6       (1) **[Shall]** (a) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a  
7 practitioner of mortuary science, shall have passed an examination  
8 to be conducted by the board or an entity other than the board to  
9 determine the qualifications and fitness of the applicant. Such  
10 examination, the scope, character and content of which shall be  
11 determined by the board, shall be the same for all applicants at each  
12 examination, and shall include: anatomy; physiology; pathology;  
13 chemistry; disinfection; hygiene; sanitary science; bacteriology;  
14 dissection; the care, preservation, embalming, transportation, and  
15 burial, cremation or other disposal of dead human bodies; the  
16 applicable laws and rules governing vital statistics, preparation and  
17 transportation for burial, cremation or other disposal of dead human  
18 bodies, including those dead as a result of contagious and infectious  
19 diseases; the provisions of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) and  
20 of the rules and regulations adopted by the board; professional  
21 ethics; mortuary accounting; and such other subjects as the board  
22 may determine, by rule or regulation, to be necessary, proper or  
23 reasonably calculated to establish the qualifications and fitness of  
24 the applicant; or

25       (b) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a funeral arranger,  
26 shall have passed an examination to be conducted by the board or  
27 an entity other than the board to determine the qualifications and  
28 fitness of the applicant. Such examination, the scope, character and  
29 content of which shall be determined by the board, shall be the  
30 same for all applicants at each examination, and shall include:  
31 disinfection; hygiene; sanitary science and bacteriology; the care,  
32 preservation transportation and burial, cremation or other disposal  
33 of dead human bodies; the applicable laws and rules governing vital  
34 statistics, preparation, and transportation for burial, cremation, or  
35 other disposal of dead human bodies, including those dead as a  
36 result of contagious and infectious diseases; the provisions of  
37 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) and the rules and regulations  
38 adopted by the board; professional ethics; mortuary accounting; and  
39 such other subjects as determined by the board, by rule or  
40 regulation, to be necessary, proper, or reasonably calculated to  
41 establish the qualifications and fitness of the applicant, but shall not  
42 include embalming.

43       An examination conducted by an entity other than the board shall  
44 be preapproved by the board and conducted by a nationally  
45 recognized testing service that is under contract with the regulatory  
46 boards of at least three other states to provide testing and grading in  
47 the field of funeral service arts and funeral service science. This  
48 entity may conduct the law portion of the examination as



1 enumerated above. Applicants for a license to be a practitioner of  
2 mortuary science shall be required to be tested and graded by the  
3 testing service in the fields of funeral arts and funeral science.  
4 Applicants for a license to be a funeral arranger shall be required  
5 only to be tested and graded by the testing service in the field of  
6 funeral arts.

7 Such examinations shall be administered electronically or in  
8 writing and shall be held at least once in each year, and oftener if  
9 the board shall so determine by rule or regulation, at such times and  
10 places as may be fixed by the board. In addition to the examination  
11 herein provided for, the examination of each applicant for a license  
12 to be a practitioner of mortuary science pursuant to this subsection  
13 shall include, wherever possible, an actual demonstration on a  
14 cadaver of the embalming proficiency and qualifications of the  
15 applicant.

16 (2) Shall have completed **[2]** two years of practical training and  
17 experience as a registered trainee in regular, steady, bona fide full-  
18 time service of a grade and character satisfactory to the board, in  
19 the State of New Jersey, with a person duly licensed as a  
20 practitioner of mortuary science under P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32  
21 et seq.), as a licensed funeral arranger pursuant to P.L.1952, c.340  
22 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or as both an embalmer and funeral director  
23 under any prior law of this State and whose annual case volume  
24 shall be equal to at least 25 cases, and in the case of an applicant for  
25 licensure to be a practitioner of mortuary science shall have assisted  
26 in embalming at least 75 bodies; and shall have satisfactorily  
27 completed a minimum of **[2]** two academic years of instruction in a  
28 college or university approved by the State Department of  
29 Education and **[1]** one year of instruction in a school of mortuary  
30 science approved by the State Board of Mortuary Science of New  
31 Jersey; except that a person who has satisfactorily completed **[3]**  
32 three academic years of instruction in such a college or university  
33 and **[1]** one year of instruction in such an approved school of  
34 mortuary science need only have completed **[1]** one year of  
35 practical training and experience as a registered trainee. Not more  
36 than **[1]** one trainee shall be registered at **[1]** one time in **[1]** one  
37 establishment, except that **[2]** two trainees may be permitted if  
38 there are **[2]** two or more licensees in the same establishment. The  
39 board is authorized and empowered to prescribe rules and  
40 regulations establishing minimum courses of college or university  
41 instruction; to insure that each trainee receives satisfactory and  
42 efficient training and experience which may provide for the periods  
43 that may be credited toward the required year of training and  
44 experience, the nature, character and extent of the services to be  
45 performed by the trainee, for such practical and actual experience in  
46 mortuary science or in funeral arranging and assisting in the same  
47 as it shall determine and for the making of such reports by the

1 trainee and by the licensee with whom the trainee is registered as  
2 may be advisable and for such other qualifications in the applicant  
3 as may be reasonably calculated to insure and protect the public  
4 health, morals, safety and welfare;

5 (3) Shall have, upon commencing the period of training and  
6 experience as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection  
7 registered as a trainee with the board, upon a form to be provided  
8 by the board, and has paid to the board a registration fee of \$50.00,  
9 and has received from the board a certificate as a registered trainee;

10 (4) Shall have been a resident of the State of New Jersey  
11 continuously during the period of training and experience; and

12 (5) Shall have passed his or her twenty-first birthday.

13 (b) An applicant who meets the requirements of section 19 of  
14 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50) shall be admitted to the examinations  
15 prescribed in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this section but a  
16 license to enter into the practice of mortuary science or to be a  
17 funeral arranger shall not be issued or granted to any such applicant  
18 by the board unless and until such applicant has completed the  
19 period of practical training and experience as a registered trainee  
20 required by paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of this section.

21 (cf: P.L.2019, c.130)

22  
23 10. Section 1 of P.L.1999, c.404 (C.45:7-49.1) is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 1. After successful completion of the law portion of the  
26 examination conducted by the board pursuant to section 18 of  
27 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49), and upon payment to the board of a  
28 fee and the submission of a written application on forms provided  
29 by it, the board may issue, at its discretion, a practitioner of  
30 mortuary science license or a license in funeral arranging to a  
31 person who holds a valid license or certification issued by another  
32 state or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia  
33 and who has met education and experience requirements  
34 substantially equivalent to the requirements of P.L.1952, c.340  
35 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), and who has been engaged in the practice of  
36 mortuary science or funeral arranging in that state, possession or  
37 district with a valid license or certification for two years  
38 immediately prior to application; except that the board may issue, at  
39 its discretion, a practitioner of mortuary science license or a license  
40 in funeral arranging to an applicant who does not meet the practical  
41 training and experience requirements of paragraph (2) of subsection  
42 a. of section 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) but otherwise meets  
43 the requirements specified in this section if the applicant has been  
44 engaged in the practice of mortuary science or funeral arranging for  
45 not less than five years immediately prior to application.

46 (cf: P.L.2001, c.83)

1       11. Section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       19. No person shall be examined by the board except upon  
4 payment of a fee of \$50.00 for the initial examination and a fee of  
5 \$25.00 for each re-examination. Each applicant, before being  
6 admitted to an examination, shall first submit to the board

7       (1) evidence verified by oath and satisfactory to the board that:

8       (a) He is a citizen of the United States and has been a resident  
9 of the State of New Jersey for a period of at least **【6】** six months  
10 prior to the date of the examination;

11       (b) He is of good moral character and at least 21 years of age;

12       (2) a certificate from the Commissioner of Education of this  
13 State showing that before entering an embalming college or college  
14 of mortuary science he had obtained an academic education  
15 consisting of a **【4】** four years' course of study in an approved  
16 public or private high school or the equivalent thereof, he has (a)  
17 satisfactorily completed a minimum of **【2】** two years of academic  
18 instruction in a college or university approved by the New Jersey  
19 Department of Education, satisfactorily completed a minimum of  
20 **【1】** one year of academic instruction in a school of mortuary  
21 science approved by the State Board of Mortuary Science; or (b)  
22 satisfactorily completed a minimum of **【3】** three years of academic  
23 instruction in such a college or university, satisfactorily completed  
24 a minimum of **【1】** one year of academic instruction in such a  
25 school of mortuary science; and

26       (3) a certificate from a licensed practitioner of mortuary science  
27 or a licensed funeral arranger in the State of New Jersey that he has  
28 served a **【1-year】** one-year or **【2-year】** two-year period of practical  
29 training as a registered trainee under such practitioner of mortuary  
30 science or a licensed funeral arranger, whichever is applicable; such  
31 period of practical training as a registered trainee may be served  
32 either concurrently with the college or university courses, during  
33 summer vacations, or subsequent to the completion of the college or  
34 academic course, at the option of the registrant.

35 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.8)

36

37       12. Section 28 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-59) is amended to  
38 read as follows:

39       28. The license of any practitioner of mortuary science **【or】**, of  
40 any embalmer and funeral director, or either, or funeral arranger  
41 shall terminate upon his decease.

42 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.11)

43

44       13. Section 30 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-61) is amended to  
45 read as follows:

46       30. No person shall operate, maintain or use a mortuary within  
47 this State unless:

1 (a) He, they or it shall annually register with the board in  
2 accordance with the provisions of section twenty-four of this act;

3 (b) The certificate of registration issued by the board shall be  
4 conspicuously displayed within the establishment;

5 (c) The licenses of the individual owner, of all partners, or of  
6 the manager of the establishment in all cases where the  
7 establishment is not managed by a licensed individual owner or  
8 licensed partners, shall be conspicuously displayed within the  
9 establishment;

10 (d) It shall be under the immediate and personal supervision,  
11 direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a  
12 practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions of this act,  
13 **【or】** of a person duly licensed as a funeral director under the  
14 provisions of this act or of any prior law of this State, or of a person  
15 duly licensed as a funeral arranger under the provisions of  
16 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.); and all funeral directing shall  
17 be under the immediate and personal supervision, direction,  
18 management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner  
19 of mortuary science, under the provisions of this act, **【or】** of a  
20 person duly licensed as a funeral director under the provisions of  
21 this act or of any prior law of this State, or of a person duly  
22 licensed as a funeral arranger under the provisions of P.L.1952,  
23 c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.);

24 (e) Its construction, maintenance and operation shall conform to  
25 the rules and regulations of the board promulgated to safeguard and  
26 promote the public health, safety, morals and welfare.  
27 (cf: P.L.1952, c.340, s.30)

28

29 14. Section 34 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-65) is amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 34. Every practitioner of mortuary science, embalmer **【or】**,  
32 funeral director, or funeral arranger shall report to the local health  
33 officer all contagious cases in which he may be called, within  
34 twelve hours after death or as soon as may be after being called.  
35 (cf: P.L.1952, c.340, s.34)

36

37 15. Section 17 of P.L.1960, c.184 (C.45:7-65.2) is amended to  
38 read as follows:

39 17. No person shall operate, maintain, or use a branch mortuary  
40 within this State unless it is under the actual personal supervision,  
41 direction, management and actual control of a person who is duly  
42 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science **【or】**, as a funeral  
43 director, or as a funeral arranger.

44 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.17)

45

46 16. Section 18 of P.L.1960, c.184 (C.45:7-65.3) is amended to  
47 read as follows:

1 18. a. No person, firm or corporation, or solicitors, agents,  
2 canvassers, employees or other persons acting on behalf of that  
3 person, firm or corporation, for the purpose of selling or contracting  
4 to sell or provide any service or services commonly furnished or  
5 performed by an embalmer **[or]**, funeral director or funeral  
6 arranger, including, but not limited to, prepaid funeral agreements  
7 and the making of at need or preneed funeral arrangements, shall:

8 (1) Directly or indirectly solicit persons in hospitals, rest homes,  
9 nursing homes or similar health care facilities by telephone or in  
10 person without first having been specifically requested to do so by  
11 that person;

12 (2) Directly or indirectly employ any agent, employee, assistant,  
13 independent contractor or other person to solicit persons in  
14 hospitals, rest homes, nursing homes or similar health care facilities  
15 by telephone or in person without first having been specifically  
16 requested to do so by that person;

17 (3) Solicit relatives of persons whose death is apparently  
18 pending or whose death has recently occurred for the purpose of  
19 providing any of those services for that person;

20 (4) Solicit, accept, offer to pay or pay any commission, bonus or  
21 rebate in consideration of recommending or causing any person to  
22 use the services of a particular funeral director or funeral arranger,  
23 or the services of a particular crematory, mausoleum or cemetery;  
24 or

25 (5) Solicit persons at their residences in person or by telephone  
26 unless that solicitation is in response to a previous request for or  
27 expression of interest in a funeral director's or a funeral arranger's  
28 services made by the person solicited or by a member of that  
29 person's family.

30 b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the right  
31 of a funeral director or a funeral arranger, or an agent or employee  
32 of **[the funeral director]** thereof, to communicate, by direct mail or  
33 in any other way not specifically prohibited by this section, with  
34 persons or provide them with information regarding the services of  
35 the funeral director or the funeral arranger, or to solicit the business  
36 of any person responding to that communication and explicitly  
37 requesting further information by personal visit or telephone, or  
38 otherwise initiating further discussion of those services, or to  
39 provide services or information to persons in connection with  
40 services previously rendered.

41 c. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit general  
42 advertising by a funeral director or a funeral arranger.

43 d. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the  
44 payment of commissions, bonuses or other compensation to a  
45 licensed cemetery salesman for the sale of cemetery goods or  
46 services.

47 e. As used in this section, "at need funeral arrangements,"  
48 "preneed funeral arrangements" and "prepaid funeral agreement"

1 shall have the same meaning as they are defined in section 1 of  
2 P.L.1993, c.147 (C.45:7-82).

3 (cf: P.L.1993, c.147, s.15)

4  
5 17. Section 1 of P.L.1979, c.201 (C.45:7-65.4) is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 1. It shall be unlawful for a funeral director or a funeral  
8 arranger to place the remains of more than one deceased person or  
9 stillborn infant in a coffin, casket, or other container for the purpose  
10 of interment, unless other written directions have been given by the  
11 decedent or a court of competent jurisdiction, or the relative or  
12 relatives of the decedent in the following order:

13 (1) Surviving spouse;

14 (2) A majority of surviving children of the decedent or the  
15 surviving child if one;

16 (3) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent;

17 (4) A majority of the brothers and sisters of the decedent if no  
18 child or parent is living; or

19 (5) Other next of kin according to the degree of consanguinity.

20 (cf: P.L.1979, c.201, s.1)

21  
22 18. Section 1 of P.L.1995, c.192 (C.45:7-72.1) is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 1. The State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey shall  
25 require each person licensed to practice mortuary science,  
26 embalming **【or】**, funeral directing, or funeral arranging, as a  
27 condition for biennial license renewal pursuant to section 23 of  
28 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-54), to complete any continuing education  
29 requirements imposed by the board pursuant to section 2 of this act.

30 (cf: P.L.1995, c.192, s.1)

31  
32 19. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.192 (C.45:7-72.2) is amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 2. a. The board shall implement a program of continuing  
35 education as a condition of license renewal for licensees under its  
36 jurisdiction and may, in its discretion, waive all or part of the  
37 continuing education requirement for any biennial licensing period.  
38 The board shall establish standards for continuing education,  
39 including the subject matter and content of courses of study as  
40 appropriate for persons licensed as practitioners of mortuary science  
41 and persons licensed as funeral arrangers, the selection of  
42 instructors, and the number and type of continuing education credits  
43 required of a licensee as a condition for biennial license renewal.

44 b. The board may establish a system for reviewing and  
45 approving private sponsors of continuing education courses,  
46 seminars or programs which may be utilized to provide continuing  
47 education to licensees in satisfaction of the requirements imposed

1 by this act.

2 (cf: P.L.1995, c.192, s.2)

3

4 20. Section 42 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-73) is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 42. The board shall report to the State Department of Health the  
7 name and residence of every person to whom it may issue a license.  
8 The board shall issue to each person granted a license an  
9 identification card stating that the holder thereof has received a  
10 license and is carrying on the practice of mortuary science, **[or]** of  
11 funeral directing or embalming , or of funeral arranging. The  
12 proper holder of such a card shall have the same right to carry on  
13 the practice of mortuary science, or of funeral directing or  
14 embalming as those whose names appear on file in the office of the  
15 registrar of vital statistics in each municipality  
16 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.15)

17

18 21. Section 43 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-73.1) is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 43. The board may, in its discretion, enter into an agreement  
21 with the corresponding licensing authority of any other State to  
22 permit a person duly registered and licensed as a practitioner of  
23 mortuary science **[or]**, a funeral director, or as a funeral arranger in  
24 either State to enter into the other State for the purpose of  
25 removing, transporting and burying dead human bodies and  
26 directing funerals in the same manner as if he were registered under  
27 the laws of such other State, except that such person shall not  
28 maintain an establishment, advertise or hold himself out, directly or  
29 through any agent or agency or otherwise, as a practitioner of  
30 mortuary science **[or]**, a funeral director, or a funeral arranger other  
31 than in the State in which he is registered and licensed.  
32 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.4)

33

34 22. (New section) The State Board of Mortuary Science of New  
35 Jersey shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
36 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt any new rules and  
37 regulations or amend any existing rules and regulations necessary to  
38 implement the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
39 the Legislature as this bill).

40

41 23. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth  
42 month next following enactment.

43

44

45

#### STATEMENT

46

47 This bill amends current law by authorizing the State Board of  
48 Mortuary Science of New Jersey to license funeral arrangers.

1 Unlike practitioners of mortuary science, who conduct both funeral  
2 directing and embalming, funeral arrangers will not be allowed to  
3 embalm but will be proficient in all aspects of funeral directing.  
4 The education, including continuing education, and examination  
5 requirements of the law are modified to allow for this new category  
6 of licensure. The bill does not change the current requirements for  
7 a person to be licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science. That  
8 class of licensure is still required to be proficient in both funeral  
9 directing and embalming.

10 The funeral directing industry is regulated, in large part, by the  
11 nearly-70 year old "Mortuary Science Act," (P.L.1952, c.340).  
12 Prior to the enactment of the 1952 law, the industry was regulated  
13 pursuant to P.L.1927, c.156 (repealed effectively in 1952). Under  
14 the 1927 law, the licensing board was directed to issue three  
15 separate licenses: one for embalming, one for funeral directing, and  
16 a third for both embalming and funeral directing. The 1952 law  
17 consolidated the three licenses into one, issuing thereafter a license  
18 for a practitioner of mortuary science, who must be proficient in  
19 both embalming and funeral directing.

20 For religious, cultural, environmental, and other personal and  
21 philosophical reasons, individuals often choose cremation or burial  
22 without embalming as an alternative to burial with embalming.  
23 Over the last several decades, the percentage of funeral services not  
24 requiring embalming has increased. This bill, by allowing funeral  
25 services not involving embalming to be provided by persons  
26 licensed by the board who are not embalmers, would facilitate the  
27 response by the funeral services' industry to New Jersey's diverse  
28 population and to societal changes.

29 As defined in the bill, "funeral arranging" means funeral  
30 directing, which includes (1) holding one's self out as being  
31 engaged in or conducting the preparation (other than embalming)  
32 for burial or disposal and the direction or supervision of burial or  
33 disposal of dead human bodies; (2) maintaining, using or operating  
34 a mortuary; (3) in connection with one's name or mortuary using the  
35 words "mortician" or "funeral director" or "undertaker" or any other  
36 words or title of like import or signification; or (4) engaging in or  
37 making funeral arrangements. The bill incorporates the regulation  
38 of funeral arranging into provisions of current law addressing  
39 licensure requirements and the overall oversight of the profession  
40 by the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey.