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LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	06/13/2024
		12/26/2024
		07/03/2025

S3007 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	SCM 6/12/25 1R SBA 6/26/25 2R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	No
	SENATE:	Yes Commerce Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	06/26/2025 07/03/2025

VETO MESSAGE:	No
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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
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LEGISLATOR STATEMENT:	No
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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

WAYNE PARRY Staff Writer, 'Murphy signs bill to OK composting of human remains', *Press of Atlantic City, The: WebEdition Articles* (online), 13 Sep 2025 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A31596A62E8E7A8>>

CL/MMcB

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 143, *approved September 11, 2025*
Assembly, No. 4085 (*Third Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.
3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
6
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-34) is amended to read
8 as follows:
9 3. As used in this act:
10 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Mortuary Science of New
11 Jersey.
12 (b) "Embalming" means the disinfecting or preservation of a
13 dead human body, entirely or in part by the use of chemical
14 substances, fluids or gases in the body, or by introduction of the
15 same into the body by vascular or hypodermic injection, or by
16 direct application into the organs or cavities.
17 (c) "Funeral directing" means (1) the engaging in or conducting
18 or holding one's self out as being engaged in or conducting the
19 preparation (other than embalming) for burial or disposal and the
20 direction or supervision of burial or disposal of dead human bodies;
21 or (2) maintaining, using or operating a mortuary; or (3) in
22 connection with one's name or mortuary using the words
23 "mortician" or "funeral director" or "undertaker" or any other words
24 or title of like import or signification.
25 "Funeral directing" also means the engaging in or making, or
26 holding one's self out as being engaged in or making, funeral
27 arrangements, including at need funeral arrangements or preneed
28 funeral arrangements; or the offering or holding one's self out as
29 offering the opportunity to purchase or enroll in a prepaid funeral
30 agreement. As used in this definition, "funeral arrangements," "at
31 need funeral arrangements," "preneed funeral arrangements" and
32 "prepaid funeral agreement" shall have the same meaning as they
33 are defined in section 1 of P.L.1993, c.147 (C.45:7-82).
34 (d) "Mortuary science" means embalming and funeral directing,
35 as the same are herein defined.

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.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted May 16, 2024.
²Assembly ARP committee amendments adopted October 24, 2024.
³Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

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

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

6 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
7 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
8 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
9 **act]** ²**[section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50)]** P.L.1952, c.340
10 (C.45:7-32 et seq.)² as a practitioner of mortuary science, or (2)
11 holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the
12 provisions of any prior law or laws of this State, or (3) holds a
13 license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or
14 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²**[under the**
15 **provisions of section [21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)]** 18 of
16 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)]² as a funeral director, or (4) holds a
17 license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or
18 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²**[under the**
19 **provisions of section [21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)]** 18 of
20 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)]² as an embalmer.

21 (h) "Mortuary" means any place or premises devoted to or used
22 in the care and preparation for burial, disposition, or transportation
23 of dead human bodies, or any specifically designated location or
24 address where any person or persons shall hold forth that he, she, or
25 they are engaged in the practice of mortuary science, embalming or
26 funeral directing, and shall mean and include any premises of any
27 kind whatsoever in which mortuary science in any of its branches is
28 practiced or in which more than five funerals may be conducted in
29 any calendar year, except publicly owned buildings, places of
30 worship and meeting places of fraternal organizations.

31 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
32 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
33 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
34 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
35 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
36 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **[this act]** P.L.1952, c.340
37 (C.45:7-49).

38 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
39 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
40 human remains into a soil-like product.

41 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
42 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
43 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
44 organic reduction of a human body.

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

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

3 7. The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules
4 and regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any
5 amendment or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall
6 be reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or
7 improvement of the standards of service, protection and practice to
8 be followed in the practice of mortuary science, embalming, natural
9 organic reduction, and funeral directing by individuals,
10 corporations, partnerships and associations in the State of New
11 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
12 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

13 In addition to the powers otherwise herein granted to the board,
14 the board is specifically empowered to adopt rules and regulations
15 concerning the following:

16 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is
17 conducted,

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

20 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

21 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

22 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

23 (f) practice of mortuary science by individuals, corporations,
24 partnerships and associations, ¹and¹

25 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
26 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
27 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
28 conducting natural organic reduction.

29 (cf: P.L.1960, c.184, s.4)
30

31 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
34 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
35 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
36 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
37 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
38 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
39 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
40 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
41 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
42 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
43 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
44 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
45 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
46 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
47 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
48 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm

1 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
2 registration issued under this section.

3 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

4
5 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
6 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

7 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
8 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
9 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) ³and after inspection and
10 approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the
11 facility prior to its opening, which shall include a review of
12 compliance with paragraph (2) of subsection e. of this section³;

13 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
14 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
15 facility;

16 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
17 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
18 within the facility;

19 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
20 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
21 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
22 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
23 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
24 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
25 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
26 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
27 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
28 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
29 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
30 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and

31 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
32 shall conform to the rules and regulations of³;

33 (1)³ the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public
34 health, safety, morals and welfare³; and

35 (2) the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to
36 the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic
37 reduction remains from any drinking water well, which shall be at
38 least 200 days time of travel or 500 feet from the well³.

39
40 ³5. (New section) a. At the time arrangements for disposition
41 are made, a funeral director shall inform a customer, in writing, that
42 a cemetery on the list maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery
43 Board pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section is
44 an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural
45 organic reduction has been performed.

46 b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall:

(1) notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed; and

(2) maintain a list of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased pursuant to subsection a. of this section.³

³6. (New section) a. The State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as the section relates to use of cemeteries.

c. The Department of Environmental Protection shall promulgate rules and regulations as the department determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection a. of section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), as the subsection relates to inspections by the department.³

³[5.] 7.³ This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month next ¹following enactment¹, except that the director may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CHAPTER 143

AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

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

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

C.45:7-34 Definitions.

3. As used in P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.):

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

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

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

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

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

(e) "Mortuary science" means funeral directing as the same is herein defined.

(f) "Practitioner of mortuary and embalming science" means a qualified person who practices or engages in mortuary and embalming science, as the same is herein defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) as a practitioner of mortuary and embalming science; (2) holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this State; (3) holds a license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed as a funeral director; or (4) holds a license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed as an embalmer.

(g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a person who practices or engages in funeral directing and is licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.).

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

(i) "Registered intern" means a person who is duly registered with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary and embalming science or as a practitioner of mortuary science under the personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary and embalming science or as a practitioner of mortuary science, as appropriate, and who has an annual case volume as hereinafter provided in section 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49). A person seeking licensure as a practitioner of mortuary science may learn to practice as a registered intern in mortuary science from a licensed practitioner in mortuary and embalming science, provided that such training solely focuses on funeral directing.

(j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains into a soil-like product.

(k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary or on registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural organic reduction of a human body.

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

C.45:7-38 Rules and regulations.

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

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

- (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is conducted,
- (b) establish minimum requirements for a preparation room and as to the manner in which it shall be maintained,
- (c) issuance of lists of licensees,
- (d) interns, apprentices, and preceptors,
- (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,
- (f) practice of mortuary science or mortuary and embalming science by individuals, corporations, partnerships, and associations, and
- (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be maintained and the minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction.

3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to read as follows:

C.45:7-55 Certificate of registration for each mortuary operated, maintained or used; fee.

24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by the board and such

individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear the date of January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of such year. No mortuary or natural organic reduction facility shall be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of registration issued under this section.

C.45:7-61.1 Natural organic reduction facility, requirements.

4. No person shall operate, maintain, or use a natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) and after inspection and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the facility prior to its opening, which shall include a review of compliance with paragraph (2) of subsection e. of this section;

b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction facility;

c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the natural organic reduction facility shall be conspicuously displayed within the facility;

d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and

e. the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility shall conform to the rules and regulations of:

(1) the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

(2) the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic reduction remains from any drinking water well, which shall be at least 200 days' time of travel or 500 feet from the well.

C.45:7-65.6 Natural organic reduction, list of cemeteries to receive remains.

5. a. At the time arrangements for disposition are made, a funeral director shall inform a customer, in writing, that a cemetery on the list maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery Board pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section is an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed.

b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall:

(1) notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed; and

(2) maintain a list of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

6. a. The State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of P.L.2025, c.143 (C.45:7-61.1 et al.).

b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of section 5 of P.L.2025, c.143 (C.45:7-65.6), as the section relates to use of cemeteries.

c. The Department of Environmental Protection shall promulgate rules and regulations as the department determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection a. of section 4 of P.L.2025, c.143 (C.45:7-61.1), as the subsection relates to inspections by the department.

7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month next following enactment, except that the director may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

Approved September 11, 2025.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/15/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50) as a practitioner of
45 mortuary science, or (2) holds a license as both an embalmer and a

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 funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this
2 State, or (3) holds a license as an embalmer under the provisions of
3 any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed
4 under the provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】**
5 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as a funeral director, or (4) holds
6 a license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law
7 or laws of this State and shall have been licensed under the
8 provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】** 18 of
9 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as an embalmer.

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

20 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
21 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
22 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
23 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
24 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
25 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340
26 (C.45:7-49).

27 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
28 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
29 human remains into a soil-like product.

30 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
31 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
32 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
33 organic reduction of a human body.

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

35

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

38 The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules and
39 regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any amendment
40 or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall be
41 reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or improvement
42 of the standards of service, protection and practice to be followed in
43 the practice of mortuary science, embalming, natural organic
44 reduction, and funeral directing by individuals, corporations,
45 partnerships and associations in the State of New Jersey, and for
46 and in the interest, preservation and improvement of the public
47 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 by individuals, corporations,
12 partnerships and associations,
13 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
14 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
15 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
16 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

18

19 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
22 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
23 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
24 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
25 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
26 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
27 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
28 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
29 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
30 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
31 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
32 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
33 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
34 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
35 such year. No mortuary shall be operated, maintained, or used at
36 any location by any person, firm or corporation at any location not
37 specified in a certificate of registration issued under this section.

38 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

39

40 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
41 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

- 42 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
43 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
44 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55);
45 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
46 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
47 facility;

1 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
2 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
3 within the facility;

4 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
5 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
6 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
7 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
8 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
9 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
10 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
11 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
12 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
13 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
14 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
15 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and

16 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
17 shall conform to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated
18 to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals and welfare.
19

20 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month
21 next, except that the director may take any anticipatory
22 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
23 implementation of this act.
24

25 STATEMENT 26

27 This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled
28 supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in
29 current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated
30 under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural
31 organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic
32 reduction process. The bill stipulates the information a mortuary
33 company is to submit to the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary
34 Science for approval for the construction and operation of a natural
35 organic reduction facility and how a facility is to manage the
36 transfer of remains and the reduction process. The bill also
37 authorizes the board to create regulations and inspect facilities.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on May 16, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/12/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50) as a practitioner of
45 mortuary science, or (2) holds a license as both an embalmer and a

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted May 16, 2024.

1 funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this
2 State, or (3) holds a license as an embalmer under the provisions of
3 any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed
4 under the provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】**
5 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as a funeral director, or (4) holds
6 a license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law
7 or laws of this State and shall have been licensed under the
8 provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】** 18 of
9 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as an embalmer.

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

20 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
21 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
22 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
23 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
24 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
25 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340
26 (C.45:7-49).

27 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
28 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
29 human remains into a soil-like product.

30 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
31 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
32 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
33 organic reduction of a human body.

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

35
36 2. Section 7 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-38) is amended to read
37 as follows:

38 7. The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules
39 and regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any
40 amendment or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall
41 be reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or
42 improvement of the standards of service, protection and practice to
43 be followed in the practice of mortuary science, embalming, natural
44 organic reduction, and funeral directing by individuals,
45 corporations, partnerships and associations in the State of New
46 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
47 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 by individuals, corporations,
12 partnerships and associations,¹ and¹

13 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
14 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
15 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
16 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

18
19 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
22 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
23 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
24 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
25 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
26 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
27 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
28 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
29 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
30 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
31 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
32 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
33 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
34 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
35 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
36 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm
37 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
38 registration issued under this section.

39 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

40
41 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
42 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

43 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
44 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
45 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55);

46 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
47 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
48 facility;

1 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
2 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
3 within the facility;

4 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
5 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
6 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
7 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
8 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
9 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
10 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
11 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
12 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
13 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
14 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
15 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and

16 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
17 shall conform to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated
18 to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals and welfare.
19

20 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month
21 next 'following enactment'¹, except that the director may take any
22 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
23 for the implementation of this act.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

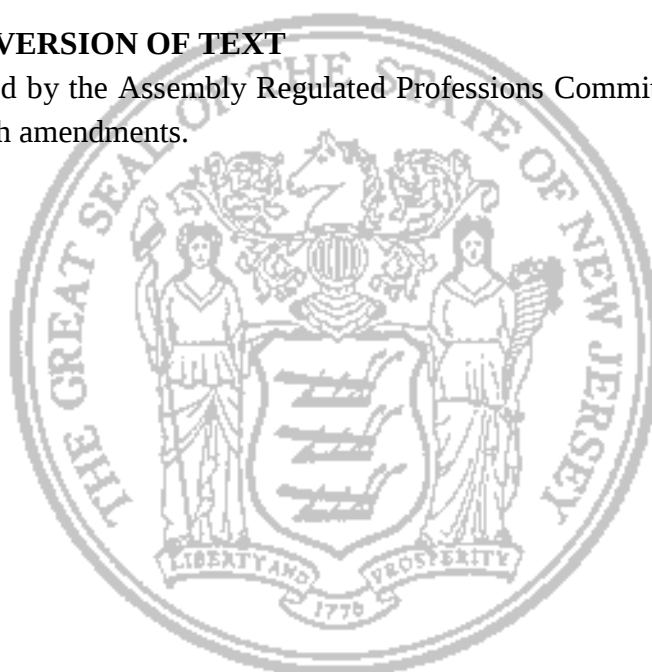
Assemblyman Calabrese

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee on October 24, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** ²**[section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50)]** P.L.1952, c.340

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted May 16, 2024.

²Assembly ARP committee amendments adopted October 24, 2024.

1 (C.45:7-32 et seq.)² as a practitioner of mortuary science, or (2)
2 holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the
3 provisions of any prior law or laws of this State, or (3) holds a
4 license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or
5 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²under the
6 provisions of section **21** of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) **18** of
7 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)² as a funeral director, or (4) holds a
8 license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or
9 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²under the
10 provisions of section **21** of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) **18** of
11 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)² as an embalmer.

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

22 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
23 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
24 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
25 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
26 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
27 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **this act** P.L.1952, c.340
28 (C.45:7-49).

29 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
30 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
31 human remains into a soil-like product.

32 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
33 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
34 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
35 organic reduction of a human body.

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

37

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

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

1 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
2 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

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

6 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is
7 conducted,

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

10 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

11 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

12 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

13 (f) practice of mortuary science by individuals, corporations,
14 partnerships and associations,¹ and¹

15 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
16 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
17 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
18 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

20

21 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
24 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
25 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
26 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
27 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
28 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
29 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
30 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
31 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
32 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
33 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
34 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
35 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
36 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
37 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
38 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm
39 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
40 registration issued under this section.

41 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

42

43 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
44 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

45 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
46 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
47 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55);

- 1 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
2 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
3 facility;
- 4 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
5 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
6 within the facility;
- 7 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
8 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
9 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
10 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
11 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
12 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
13 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
14 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
15 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
16 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
17 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
18 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and
- 19 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
20 shall conform to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated
21 to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals and welfare.
22
- 23 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month
24 next 'following enactment', except that the director may take any
25 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
26 for the implementation of this act.

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman JULIO MARENCO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

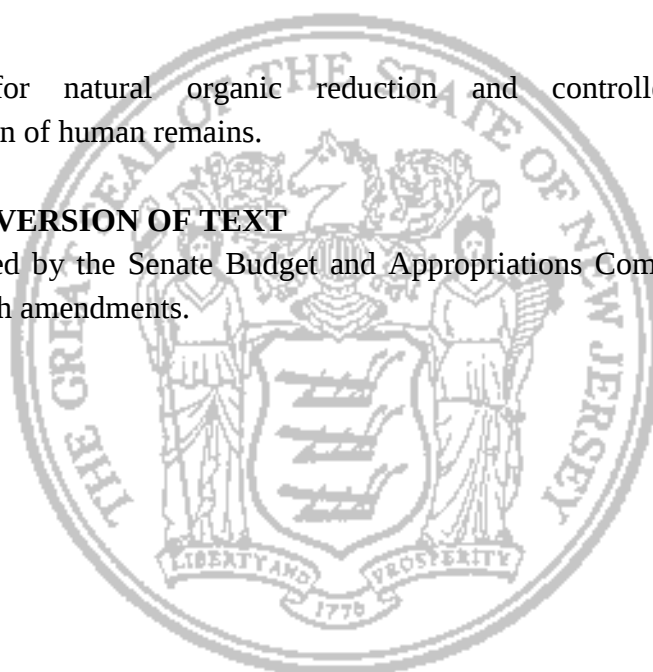
Assemblyman Calabrese

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** ²**[section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50)]** P.L.1952, c.340

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AST committee amendments adopted May 16, 2024.

²Assembly ARP committee amendments adopted October 24, 2024.

³Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 (C.45:7-32 et seq.)² as a practitioner of mortuary science, or (2)
 2 holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the
 3 provisions of any prior law or laws of this State, or (3) holds a
 4 license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or
 5 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²under the
 6 provisions of section [21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)] 18 of
 7 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)]² as a funeral director, or (4) holds a
 8 license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or
 9 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ²under the
 10 provisions of section [21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)] 18 of
 11 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)]² as an embalmer.

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

22 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
 23 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
 24 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
 25 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
 26 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
 27 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **[this act]** P.L.1952, c.340
 28 (C.45:7-49).

29 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
 30 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
 31 human remains into a soil-like product.

32 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
 33 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
 34 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
 35 organic reduction of a human body.

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

37

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

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

1 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
2 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

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

6 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is
7 conducted,

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

10 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

11 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

12 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

13 (f) practice of mortuary science by individuals, corporations,
14 partnerships and associations,¹ and¹

15 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
16 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
17 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
18 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

20

21 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
24 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
25 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
26 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
27 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
28 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
29 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
30 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
31 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
32 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
33 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
34 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
35 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
36 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
37 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
38 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm
39 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
40 registration issued under this section.

41 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

42

43 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
44 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

45 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
46 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
47 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) ³and after inspection and
48 approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the

1 facility prior to its opening, which shall include a review of
2 compliance with paragraph (2) of subsection e. of this section³;

3 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
4 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
5 facility;

6 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
7 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
8 within the facility;

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

21 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
22 shall conform to the rules and regulations of³;

23 (1)³ the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public
24 health, safety, morals and welfare³; and

25 (2) the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to
26 the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic
27 reduction remains from any drinking water well, which shall be at
28 least 200 days time of travel or 500 feet from the well³.

29
30 ³5. (New section) a. At the time arrangements for disposition
31 are made, a funeral director shall inform a customer, in writing, that
32 a cemetery on the list maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery
33 Board pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section is
34 an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural
35 organic reduction has been performed.

36 b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall:

37 (1) notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of
38 cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New
39 Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of
40 the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed;
41 and

42 (2) maintain a list of cemeteries that may receive remains of the
43 deceased pursuant to subsection a. of this section.³

44
45 ³6. (New section) a. The State Board of Mortuary Science of
46 New Jersey shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board

1 determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c.
2 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
3 b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall promulgate rules and
4 regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the
5 provisions of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as this bill), as the section relates to use of cemeteries.
7 c. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
8 promulgate rules and regulations as the department determines are
9 necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection a. of section 4
10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
11 bill), as the subsection relates to inspections by the department.³
12
13 ³**[5.] 7.**³ This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th
14 month next ¹following enactment¹, except that the director may take
15 any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
16 necessary for the implementation of this act.

ASSEMBLY SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 16, 2024

The Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4085.

As amended and reported, this bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator, both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director, or under any prior law of this State; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

(1) prohibit any natural organic reduction facility from being operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm, or

corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey;

(2) update the effective date to reflect when the act will take effect; and

(3) make a technical change.

ASSEMBLY REGULATED PROFESSIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 24, 2024

The Assembly Regulated Professions Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4085 (1R).

As amended, this bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator are both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to make technical corrections.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R).

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator, both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director, or under any prior law of this State; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3007, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R).

As amended, this bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

The bill requires a funeral director to make a customer aware, in writing, that a cemetery is an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. The bill further stipulates that the New Jersey Cemetery Board is to notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. A list is to be maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law and after inspection and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the facility prior to its opening; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator are both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal

supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of both the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare and the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic reduction from drinking water wells.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 3007 (1R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) incorporate cemeteries as a location where remains of a deceased person can be placed after natural organic reduction and require funeral directors to notify customers, in writing, of cemeteries as an option for placement of the remains;

(2) require maintenance by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of a list of cemeteries that are interested in placement of natural organic reduction remains;

(3) require the Department of Environmental Protection perform an inspection and approve a natural organic reduction facility prior to its opening to, in part, determine compliance with regulations on the distance of sites for natural organic reduction remains from any drinking water well; and

(4) authorize the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, New Jersey Cemetery Board and Department of Environmental Protection to issue rules and regulations addressing specific provisions in the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 13, 2024

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase; annual State revenue increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Annual State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board’s resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board.
- To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.
- The bill requires natural organic reduction facilities to be registered annually and for them to pay an annual registration fee of \$25, which is the identical registration requirement of mortuary operators. The OLS finds a revenue increase indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction to their services compared with new facilities that are established to provide the service.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals.

Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board’s resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board. To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.

Currently, mortuary facilities are required to register with the board annually and pay an annual registration fee of \$25. This bill would expand that requirement to those facilities operating as natural organic reduction facilities. The OLS finds the State revenue increase for the bill to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition to their list of services compared with new facilities being established to provide the service. According to the FY 2025 Governor’s Budget, in FY 2023 there were 2,335 mortuary science licenses in force in New Jersey and 2,396 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2022.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

SUMMARY

DATED: DECEMBER 26, 2024

Synopsis: Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase; annual State revenue increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Annual State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board’s resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board.
- To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.
- The bill requires natural organic reduction facilities to be registered annually and for them to pay an annual registration fee of \$25, which is the identical registration requirement of mortuary operators. The OLS finds a revenue increase indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction to their services compared with new facilities that are established to provide the service.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals.

Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board's resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board. To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.

Currently, mortuary facilities are required to register with the board annually and pay an annual registration fee of \$25. This bill would expand that requirement to those facilities operating as natural organic reduction facilities. The OLS finds the State revenue increase for the bill to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition to their list of services compared with new facilities being established to provide the service. According to the FY 2025 Governor's Budget, in FY 2023 there were 2,335 mortuary science licenses in force in New Jersey and 2,396 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2022.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

FE to A4085 [2R]

3

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Third Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4085

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 3, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis:	Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.
Type of Impact:	Annual State expenditure increase; annual State revenue increase.
Agencies Affected:	Department of Law and Public Safety, Department of Environmental Protection.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Annual State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to update their rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals, or for the placement of remains after the deceased has been naturally organically reduced. Depending on resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the boards or the department.
- To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, or to the placement of remains in cemeteries, the boards would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practices. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to performing inspections of natural organic reduction facilities.
- The bill requires natural organic reduction facilities to be registered annually and for them to pay an annual registration fee, which is the identical registration requirement of mortuary operators. The OLS finds the revenue increase to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many



existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction to their services compared with new facilities that are established to provide the service.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals.

Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process of conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the Board of Mortuary Science.

The bill further stipulates that the New Jersey Cemetery Board is to notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. A list is to be maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased.

The Department of Environmental Protection is required to perform an inspection and approve a natural organic reduction facility prior to its opening to determine compliance with regulations on the distance of sites for natural organic reduction remains from any drinking water well.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility unless specific criteria are met.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to update their rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the resource allocation policies of the boards and the Department of Environmental Protection, the added initial workload may or may not augment the additional administrative expenditures. To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, or the placement of remains in cemeteries, the boards and the Department of Environmental Protection would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practices.

Currently, mortuary facilities are required to register with the board annually and pay an annual registration fee of \$700. This bill would expand that requirement to those facilities operating as natural organic reduction facilities. The OLS finds the State revenue increase for the bill to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition to their list of services compared with new facilities being established to provide the service. According to the FY 2026 Governor's Budget, in New Jersey there were 2,339 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2024 and 2,335 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2023.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 3007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/29/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50) as a practitioner of
45 mortuary science, or (2) holds a license as both an embalmer and a

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 funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or laws of this
2 State, or (3) holds a license as an embalmer under the provisions of
3 any prior law or laws of this State and shall have been licensed
4 under the provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】**
5 18 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as a funeral director, or (4) holds
6 a license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law
7 or laws of this State and shall have been licensed under the
8 provisions of section **【21 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52)】** 18 of
9 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49) as an embalmer.

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

20 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
21 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
22 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
23 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
24 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
25 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **【this act】** P.L.1952, c.340
26 (C.45:7-49).

27 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
28 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
29 human remains into a soil-like product.

30 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
31 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
32 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
33 organic reduction of a human body.

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

35
36 2. Section 7 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-38) is amended to read
37 as follows:

38 The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules and
39 regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any amendment
40 or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall be
41 reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or improvement
42 of the standards of service, protection and practice to be followed in
43 the practice of mortuary science, embalming, natural organic
44 reduction, and funeral directing by individuals, corporations,
45 partnerships and associations in the State of New Jersey, and for
46 and in the interest, preservation and improvement of the public
47 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 by individuals, corporations,
12 partnerships and associations,
13 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
14 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
15 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
16 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

18

19 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
22 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
23 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
24 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
25 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
26 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
27 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
28 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
29 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
30 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
31 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
32 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
33 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
34 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
35 such year. No mortuary shall be operated, maintained, or used at
36 any location by any person, firm or corporation at any location not
37 specified in a certificate of registration issued under this section.

38 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

39

40 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
41 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

- 42 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
43 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
44 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55);
45 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
46 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
47 facility;

1 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
2 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
3 within the facility;

4 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
5 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
6 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
7 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
8 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
9 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
10 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
11 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
12 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
13 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
14 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
15 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and

16 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
17 shall conform to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated
18 to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals and welfare.

19
20 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month
21 next, except that the director may take any anticipatory
22 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
23 implementation of this act.

24
25
26 STATEMENT

27 This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled
28 supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in
29 current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated
30 under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural
31 organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic
32 reduction process. The bill stipulates the information a mortuary
33 company is to submit to the New Jersey State Board of Mortuary
34 Science for approval for the construction and operation of a natural
35 organic reduction facility and how a facility is to manage the
36 transfer of remains and the reduction process. The bill also
37 authorizes the board to create regulations and inspect facilities.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Commerce Committee on June 12, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/29/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** ¹**[section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50)]** P.L.1952, c.340
45 (C.45:7-32 et seq.)¹ as a practitioner of mortuary science, or (2)

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SCM committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

1 holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the
2 provisions of any prior law or laws of this State, or (3) holds a
3 license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or
4 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ¹under the
5 provisions of section **21** of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) **18** of
6 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)¹ as a funeral director, or (4) holds a
7 license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or
8 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ¹under the
9 provisions of section **21** of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) **18** of
10 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)¹ as an embalmer.

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

21 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
22 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
23 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
24 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
25 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
26 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of **this act** P.L.1952, c.340
27 (C.45:7-49).

28 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
29 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
30 human remains into a soil-like product.

31 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
32 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
33 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
34 organic reduction of a human body.

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

36

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

39 ¹7.¹ 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, natural
45 organic reduction, and funeral directing by individuals,
46 corporations, partnerships and associations in the State of New

1 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
2 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

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

6 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is
7 conducted,

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

10 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

11 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

12 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

13 (f) practice of mortuary science by individuals, corporations,
14 partnerships and associations, ¹and¹

15 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
16 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
17 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
18 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

20

21 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
24 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
25 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
26 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
27 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
28 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
29 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
30 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
31 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
32 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
33 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
34 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
35 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
36 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
37 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
38 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm
39 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
40 registration issued under this section.

41 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

42

43 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
44 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

45 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
46 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
47 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55);

- 1 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
2 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
3 facility;
- 4 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
5 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
6 within the facility;
- 7 d. the facility shall be under the immediate and personal
8 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
9 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
10 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
11 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
12 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and all natural
13 organic reduction shall be under the immediate and personal
14 supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly
15 licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science, under the provisions
16 of P.L.1952, c. 340 (C.45:7-32 et seq.), or of a person duly licensed
17 as a funeral director under the provisions of P.L.1952, c. 340
18 (C.45:7-32 et seq.) or of any prior law of this State; and
- 19 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
20 shall conform to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated
21 to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals and welfare.
22
- 23 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th month
24 next 'following enactment', except that the director may take any
25 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
26 for the implementation of this act.

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 26, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/29/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the natural organic reduction of human remains
2 and amending and supplementing P.L.1952, c.340.

3

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

6

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

9 3. As used in this act:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41 (g) "Practitioner of mortuary science" means a qualified person
42 who practices or engages in mortuary science, as the same is herein
43 defined and who (1) shall be licensed under the provisions of **[this**
44 **act]** ¹**[section 19 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-50)]** P.L.1952, c.340

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SCM committee amendments adopted June 12, 2025.

²Senate SBA committee amendments adopted June 26, 2025.

1 (C.45:7-32 et seq.)¹ as a practitioner of mortuary science, or (2)
2 holds a license as both an embalmer and a funeral director under the
3 provisions of any prior law or laws of this State, or (3) holds a
4 license as an embalmer under the provisions of any prior law or
5 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ¹~~under the~~
6 provisions of section ~~21~~ of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) 18 of
7 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)¹ as a funeral director, or (4) holds a
8 license as a funeral director under the provisions of any prior law or
9 laws of this State and shall have been licensed ¹~~under the~~
10 provisions of section ~~21~~ of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-52) 18 of
11 P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-49)¹ as an embalmer.

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

22 (i) "Registered trainee" means a person who is duly registered
23 with the board and who is engaged in the State of New Jersey in
24 learning to practice as a practitioner of mortuary science under the
25 personal instruction and supervision of a person duly licensed as a
26 practitioner of mortuary science and who has an annual case volume
27 as hereinafter provided in section 18 of ~~this act~~ P.L.1952, c.340
28 (C.45:7-49).

29 (j) "Natural organic reduction" or "controlled supervised
30 decomposition" means the contained, accelerated conversion of
31 human remains into a soil-like product.

32 (k) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a secure
33 structure, room, or other space within a registered mortuary, or on
34 registered mortuary property devoted to the process of natural
35 organic reduction of a human body.

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

37

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

40 ¹7.¹ The board is authorized and empowered to adopt such rules
41 and regulations, not inconsistent with this entire act or any
42 amendment or supplement which may hereafter be adopted, as shall
43 be reasonably proper and advisable for the promotion or
44 improvement of the standards of service, protection and practice to
45 be followed in the practice of mortuary science, embalming, natural
46 organic reduction, and funeral directing by individuals,
47 corporations, partnerships and associations in the State of New

1 Jersey, and for and in the interest, preservation and improvement of
2 the public health, morals, safety and welfare.

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

6 (a) the manner in which a mortuary or funeral establishment is
7 conducted,

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

10 (c) issuance of lists of licensees,

11 (d) trainees, apprentices and preceptors,

12 (e) unethical or unprofessional conduct,

13 (f) practice of mortuary science by individuals, corporations,
14 partnerships and associations, ¹and¹

15 (g) establish minimum requirements for a natural organic
16 reduction facility and as to the manner in which it shall be
17 maintained, and the minimum requirements for the process for
18 conducting natural organic reduction.

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

20

21 3. Section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 24. Every individual, partnership, or corporation which operates
24 or maintains within this State a mortuary or natural organic
25 reduction facility, or which in the usual and regular course of his or
26 its practice makes use of a mortuary or natural organic reduction
27 facility owned, operated, or maintained by another shall annually
28 apply to the board for a certificate of registration for each mortuary
29 and natural organic reduction facility operated, maintained, or used
30 by the applicant and shall report under oath any facts requested by
31 the board, and such individual, partnership, or corporation shall pay
32 an annual registration fee of \$25.00 for each such mortuary or
33 natural organic reduction facility. Upon verification of the
34 statements thus reported and the receipt of the requisite fee, the
35 board shall issue a certificate of registration which shall bear date of
36 January 1 for the year of issue and shall expire on December 31 of
37 such year. No mortuary ¹or natural organic reduction facility¹ shall
38 be operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm
39 or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of
40 registration issued under this section.

41 (cf: P.L.1967, c.245, s.2)

42

43 4. (New section) No person shall operate, maintain, or use a
44 natural organic reduction facility within this State unless:

45 a. the individual, partnership, or corporation annually
46 registered with the board in accordance with the provisions of
47 section 24 of P.L.1952, c.340 (C.45:7-55) ²and after inspection and
48 approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the

1 facility prior to its opening, which shall include a review of
2 compliance with paragraph (2) of subsection e. of this section²;

3 b. the certificate of registration issued by the board shall be
4 conspicuously displayed within the natural organic reduction
5 facility;

6 c. the license of the natural organic reduction operator of the
7 natural organic reduction facility, shall be conspicuously displayed
8 within the facility;

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

21 e. the construction, maintenance and operation of the facility
22 shall conform to the rules and regulations of²;

23 (1)² the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public
24 health, safety, morals and welfare²; and

25 (2) the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to
26 the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic
27 reduction remains from any drinking water well, which shall be at
28 least 200 days time of travel or 500 feet from the well².

29
30 ²5. (New section) a. At the time arrangements for disposition
31 are made, a funeral director shall inform a customer, in writing, that
32 a cemetery on the list maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery
33 Board pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection b. of this section is
34 an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural
35 organic reduction has been performed.

36 b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall:

37 (1) notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of
38 cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New
39 Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of
40 the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed;
41 and

42 (2) maintain a list of cemeteries that may receive remains of the
43 deceased pursuant to subsection a. of this subsection.²
44

45 ²6. (New section) a. The State Board of Mortuary Science of
46 New Jersey shall promulgate rules and regulations as the board

1 determines are necessary to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c.
2 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3 b. The New Jersey Cemetery Board shall promulgate rules and
4 regulations as the board determines are necessary to effectuate the
5 provisions of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as this bill), as the section relates to use of cemeteries.

7 c. The Department of Environmental Protection shall
8 promulgate rules and regulations as the department determines are
9 necessary to effectuate the provisions of subsection a. of section 4
10 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
11 bill), as the subsection relates to inspections by the department.²

12
13 ²**[5.] 7.**² This act shall take effect on the first day of the 10th
14 month next ¹following enactment¹, except that the director may take
15 any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
16 necessary for the implementation of this act.

SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3007

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2025

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3007.

As amended, this bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator are both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3007 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R), which was also reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) prohibit any natural organic reduction facility from being

operated, maintained, or used at any location by any person, firm, or corporation at any location not specified in a certificate of registration issued by the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey;

(2) update the effective date to reflect when the act will take effect; and

(3) make technical changes.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3007

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3007 (1R).

As amended, this bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey (board) to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

The bill requires a funeral director to make a customer aware, in writing, that a cemetery is an option for the placement of remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. The bill further stipulates that the New Jersey Cemetery Board is to notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. A list is to be maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility (facility) unless: (1) the individual, partnership, or corporation is annually registered with the board in accordance to the provisions of State law and after inspection and approval by the Department of Environmental Protection of the facility prior to its opening; (2) the certificate of registration issued by the board and the license of the natural organic reduction operator are both conspicuously displayed within the facility; (3) the facility and all natural organic reduction is under the immediate and personal supervision, direction, management, and control of a person duly

licensed as a practitioner of mortuary science or duly licensed as a funeral director; and (4) the construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility conforms to the rules and regulations of both the board promulgated to safeguard and promote public health, safety, morals, and welfare and the Department of Environmental Protection with regards to the appropriate setback distance of sites for natural organic reduction from drinking water wells.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3007 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4085 (2R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) incorporate cemeteries as a location where remains of a deceased person can be placed after natural organic reduction and require funeral directors to notify customers, in writing, of cemeteries as an option for placement of the remains;

(2) require maintenance by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of a list of cemeteries that are interested in placement of natural organic reduction remains;

(3) require the Department of Environmental Protection perform an inspection and approve a natural organic reduction facility prior to its opening to, in part, determine compliance with regulations on the distance of sites for natural organic reduction remains from any drinking water well; and

(4) authorize the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, New Jersey Cemetery Board and Department of Environmental Protection to issue rules and regulations addressing specific provisions in the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3007
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 26, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase; annual State revenue increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Annual State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board’s resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board.
- To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.
- The bill requires natural organic reduction facilities to be registered annually and for them to pay an annual registration fee of \$25, which is the identical registration requirement of mortuary operators. The OLS finds a revenue increase indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction to their services compared with new facilities that are established to provide the service.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals.

Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process for conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the board.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey to update its rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the board's resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the board. To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, the board would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practice.

Currently, mortuary facilities are required to register with the board annually and pay an annual registration fee of \$25. This bill would expand that requirement to those facilities operating as natural organic reduction facilities. The OLS finds the State revenue increase for the bill to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition to their list of services compared with new facilities being established to provide the service. According to the FY 2026 Governor's Budget, in FY 2024 there were 2,339 mortuary science licenses in force in New Jersey and 2,335 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2023.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3007
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 3, 2025

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase; annual State revenue increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety, Department of Environmental Protection.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	
Annual Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate
Annual State Revenue Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to update their rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals, or for the placement of remains after the deceased has been naturally organically reduced. Depending on resource allocation policies, the added initial workload may or may not augment the administrative expenditures of the boards or the department.
- To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, or to the placement of remains in cemeteries, the boards would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practices. Additionally, the Department of Environmental Protection would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to performing inspections of natural organic reduction facilities.
- The bill requires natural organic reduction facilities to be registered annually and for them to pay an annual registration fee, which is the identical registration requirement of mortuary operators. The OLS finds the revenue increase to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many

existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction to their services compared with new facilities that are established to provide the service.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill allows for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals.

Provisions in current law addressing embalming and funeral directing are updated under the bill to incorporate the creation and regulation of natural organic reduction facilities and the oversight of the organic reduction process. Specifically, this bill authorizes the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules and regulations to establish minimum requirements for a natural organic reduction facility and the manner in which it is to be maintained, and minimum requirements for the process of conducting natural organic reduction. The bill requires that a natural organic reduction facility receive a certificate of registration issued by the Board of Mortuary Science.

The bill further stipulates that the New Jersey Cemetery Board is to notify the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey of cemeteries that express interest in and are in compliance with New Jersey Cemetery Board rules and regulations to receive remains of the deceased after natural organic reduction has been performed. A list is to be maintained by the New Jersey Cemetery Board of cemeteries that may receive remains of the deceased.

The Department of Environmental Protection is required to perform an inspection and approve a natural organic reduction facility prior to its opening to determine compliance with regulations on the distance of sites for natural organic reduction remains from any drinking water well.

Under this bill, a person is prohibited from operating, maintaining, or using a natural organic reduction facility unless specific criteria are met.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines there would be an initial workload increase for the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, the New Jersey Cemetery Board, and the Department of Environmental Protection to update their rules and regulations to allow for the natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition of deceased individuals. Depending on the resource allocation policies of the boards and the Department of Environmental Protection, the added initial workload may or may not augment the additional administrative expenditures. To the extent that the bill leads to the creation of new natural organic reduction facilities or the incorporation of natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition practices into existing mortuary facilities, or the placement of remains in cemeteries, the boards and the Department of Environmental Protection would incur some indeterminate annual oversight and enforcement costs related to the new practices.

Currently, mortuary facilities are required to register with the board annually and pay an annual registration fee of \$700. This bill would expand that requirement to those facilities operating as natural organic reduction facilities. The OLS finds the State revenue increase for the bill to be indeterminate as it is unknown how many existing mortuary facilities will add natural organic reduction or controlled supervised decomposition to their list of services compared with new facilities being established to provide the service. According to the FY 2026 Governor’s Budget, in New Jersey there were 2,339 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2024 and 2,335 mortuary science licenses in force in FY 2023.

Section: Law and Public Safety
Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos
Lead Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

Posted on - 09/11/2025

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-2390/S-2506 (Spearman, Stanley, Quijano/Burgess, Turner) - Requires municipalities in compliance with affordable housing obligations be provided priority consideration for certain State grants and assistance

S-4506/A-5692 (Sarlo, Singer/Calabrese, Drulis, Moen) - Exempts minor league baseball players from certain State wage laws under certain circumstances

A-4085/S-3007 (Conaway, Marengo, Speight/Vitale, Bramnick) - Allows for natural organic reduction and controlled supervised decomposition of human remains

SCS for S-3309/ACS for A-4380 (Scutari, Bucco/Coughlin, DiMaio, Sampson) - Establishes “Motor Vehicle Open Recall Notice and Fair Compensation Act”; revises motor vehicle franchise agreements

Governor Phil Murphy

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