

CHAPTER 178.

[S. B. 180.]

HUMAN REMAINS—JURISDICTION—AUTOPSY—
DISSECTION.

AN ACT relating to coroners; and amending section 3, chapter 90, Laws of 1917 as amended by section 1, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.010; amending section 237, chapter 249, Laws of 1909 as amended by section 2, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.100; amending section 7, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.104.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

RCW 68.08.010
amended.

SECTION 1. Section 3, chapter 90, Laws of 1917, as amended by section 1, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Coroner's
jurisdiction
over human
remains.

The jurisdiction of bodies of all deceased persons who come to their death suddenly when in apparent good health without medical attendance within the thirty-six hours preceding death; or where the circumstances of death indicate death was caused by unnatural or unlawful means; or where death occurs under suspicious circumstances; or where a coroner's autopsy or post mortem or coroner's inquest is to be held; or where death results from unknown or obscure causes, or where death occurs within one year following an accident; or where the death is caused by any violence whatsoever, or where death results from a known or suspected abortion; whether self-induced or otherwise; where death apparently results from drowning, hanging, burns, electrocution, gunshot wounds, stabs or cuts, lightning, starvation, radiation, exposure, alcoholism, narcotics or other addictions, tetanus, strangulations, suffocation or smothering; or where death is due to premature birth or still birth; or where death is due to a violent contagious disease or suspected contagious disease which may be a

public health hazard; or where death results from alleged rape, carnal knowledge or sodomy, where death occurs in a jail or prison; where a body is found dead or is not claimed by relatives or friends, is hereby vested in the county coroner, which bodies may be removed and placed in the morgue under such rules as are adopted by the coroner with the approval of the county commissioners, having jurisdiction, providing therein how the bodies shall be brought to and cared for at the morgue and held for the proper identification where necessary.

SEC. 2. Section 237, chapter 249, Laws of 1909 as amended by section 2, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.100 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 68.08.100 amended.

The right to dissect a dead body shall be limited to cases specially provided by statute or by the direction or will of the deceased; cases where a coroner is authorized to hold an inquest upon the body, and then only as he may authorize dissection; and cases where the spouse or next of kin charged by law with the duty of burial shall authorize dissection for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of death, and then only to the extent so authorized: *Provided*, That the coroner, in his discretion, may make or cause to be made by a competent pathologist, toxicologist, or physician, an autopsy or post mortem in any case in which the coroner has jurisdiction of a body: *Provided, further*, That the coroner may with the approval of the University of Washington and with the consent of a parent or guardian deliver any body of a deceased person under the age of three years over which he has jurisdiction to the University of Washington medical school for the purpose of having an autopsy made to determine the cause of death. Every person who shall make, cause, or procure to be made any dissection of a body, except as above provided, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Dissection, when permitted.

Proviso.

Proviso.

RCW 68.08.104 amended.

SEC. 3. Section 7, chapter 188, Laws of 1953 and RCW 68.08.104 are each amended to read as follows:

Human remains—Cost of autopsy.

The cost of autopsy shall be borne by the county in which the autopsy is performed, except when requested by the department of labor and industries, in which case, the said department shall bear the cost of such autopsy; and except when performed on a body of an infant under the age of three years by the University of Washington medical school, in which case the medical school shall bear the cost of such autopsy.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1963.

Passed the House March 11, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1963.

CHAPTER 179.

[S. B. 251.]

PROPERTY TAXES—EXEMPTIONS—SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to the taxation of property of soil and water conservation districts; and adding a new section to chapter 15, Laws of 1961 and to chapter 84.36 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

New section.

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 15, Laws of 1961 and to chapter 84.36 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Personalty of soil and water conservation districts tax exempt. Proviso.

All personal property belonging solely to soil and water conservation districts shall be exempt from taxation: *Provided*, That the exemption contained herein shall not apply to property of any such district which engages in contract work for persons or firms not landowners or cooperators of a district.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1963.

Passed the House March 10, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1963.