

vital governmental interests, can be deleted from the specific records sought. No exemption shall be construed to permit the nondisclosure of statistical information not descriptive of any readily identifiable person or persons.

(3) Inspection or copying of any specific records, exempt under the provisions of this section, may be permitted if the superior court in the county in which the record is maintained finds, after a hearing with notice thereof to every person in interest and the agency, that the exemption of such records, is clearly unnecessary to protect any individual's right of privacy or any vital governmental function.

(4) Agency responses refusing, in whole or in part, inspection of any public record shall include a statement of the specific exemption authorizing the withholding of the record (or part) and a brief explanation of how the exemption applies to the record withheld.

Passed the House February 18, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1982.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1982.

CHAPTER 65

[House Bill No. 844]

PUBLIC DEBTS—COLLECTION BY COLLECTION AGENCIES

AN ACT Relating to the collection of public debts by collection agencies; and adding a new section to chapter 19.16 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 19.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

(1) Agencies, departments, taxing districts, political subdivisions of the state, counties, and incorporated cities may retain, by written contract, collection agencies licensed under this chapter for the purpose of collecting public debts owed by any person.

(2) No debt may be assigned to a collection agency unless (a) there has been an attempt to advise the debtor (i) of the existence of the debt and (ii) that the debt may be assigned to a collection agency for collection if the debt is not paid, and (b) at least thirty days have elapsed from the time the notice was sent.

(3) Collection agencies assigned debts under this section shall have only those remedies and powers which would be available to them as assignees of private creditors.

(4) For purposes of this section, the term debt shall include fines and other debts.

Passed the House January 27, 1982.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1982.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1982.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 1982.

CHAPTER 66

[Substitute House Bill No. 871]

FUNERAL DIRECTORS—PREARRANGEMENT FUNERAL SERVICE CONTRACTS—REGISTRATION—FINANCIAL ADVICE PROHIBITED

AN ACT Relating to funeral directors; amending section 1, chapter 108, Laws of 1937 as last amended by section 1, chapter 43, Laws of 1981 and RCW 18.39.010; amending section 4, chapter 43, Laws of 1981 and RCW 18.39.045; amending section 6, chapter 108, Laws of 1937 as last amended by section 5, chapter 43, Laws of 1981 and RCW 18.39.050; amending section 15, chapter 108, Laws of 1937 as last amended by section 8, chapter 43, Laws of 1981 and RCW 18.39.130; adding new sections to chapter 18.39 RCW; creating new sections; repealing sections 1 through 7, chapter 163, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 48.40.002 through 48.40.025; repealing section 8, chapter 163, Laws of 1977 ex. sess., section 207, chapter 158, Laws of 1979 and RCW 48.40.035; repealing sections 9 through 12, chapter 163, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 48.40.045 through 48.40.075; repealing section 1, chapter 279, Laws of 1953 and RCW 48.40.080; repealing section 2, chapter 279, Laws of 1953 and RCW 48.40.090; repealing section 14, chapter 163, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 48.40.900; prescribing penalties; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

Section 1. Section 1, chapter 108, Laws of 1937 as last amended by section 1, chapter 43, Laws of 1981 and RCW 18.39.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Funeral director" means a person engaged in the profession or business of conducting funerals and supervising or directing the burial and disposal of dead human bodies.

(2) "Embalmer" means a person engaged in the profession or business of disinfecting, preserving or preparing for disposal or transportation of dead human bodies.

(3) "Two-year college course" means the completion of sixty semester hours or ninety quarter hours of college credit, including the satisfactory completion of certain college courses, as set forth in this chapter.

(4) "Funeral establishment" means a place of business licensed in accordance with RCW 18.39.145, conducted at a specific street address or location, and devoted to the care and preparation for burial or disposal of dead human bodies and includes all areas of such business premises and all tools, instruments, and supplies used in preparation and embalming of dead human bodies for burial or disposal.