

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 2700**

By Delegates Horst, Ridenour, Masters, Crouse,

White, Petitto, Miller, and Bridges

[Introduced February 20, 2025; referred to the

Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-6-8 and §30-6-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
2 amended, relating to modifying the education and apprenticeship requirements to obtain a  
3 license for funeral directors and embalmers.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **ARTICLE 6. BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EXAMINERS.**

### **§30-6-8. Embalmer license requirements.**

1 The board shall issue a license to practice embalming to an applicant who:

2 (a) Is free of a felony conviction bearing a rational nexus to the profession pursuant to §30-  
3 1-24 of this code;

4 (b) Is 18 years of age or over;

5 (c) Is a citizen of the United States or is eligible for employment in the United States;

6 (d) Has a high school diploma or its equivalent;

7 ~~(e) Has completed one of the following education requirements, as evidenced by a~~  
8 ~~transcript submitted to the board for evaluation:~~

9 ~~(1)(A) Has an associate degree from an accredited college or university; or~~

10 ~~(2) Has successfully completed at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of~~  
11 ~~academic work in an accredited college or university toward a baccalaureate degree with a~~  
12 ~~declared major field of study; and~~

13 ~~(3) Has graduated from a school of mortuary science, accredited by the American Board of~~  
14 ~~Funeral Service Education, Inc., which requires as a prerequisite to graduation the completion of a~~  
15 ~~course of study of not less than 12 months; or~~

16 ~~(B) Has a bachelor degree in mortuary science from an accredited college or university;~~

17 (e) Has graduated from a school of mortuary science, accredited by the American Board of  
18 Funeral Service Education, Inc., which requires as a prerequisite to graduation the completion of a  
19 course of study of not less than 12 months;

20 (f) Has completed a one-year apprenticeship:

21           (A) Under the supervision of a licensed embalmer and funeral director actively and lawfully  
22 engaged in the practice of embalming and funeral directing in this state; ~~which apprenticeship~~  
23 ~~consisted of or~~

24           (B) For a mortuary school for embalmers.

25           ~~(1) Diligent attention to the work in the course of regular and steady employment and not~~  
26 ~~as a side issue to another employment; and~~

27           ~~(2) The apprentice taking an active part in:~~

28           ~~(A) The operation of embalming not less than 35 dead human bodies; and~~

29           ~~(B) Conducting not less than 35 funeral services~~

30           (g) Passes, with an average score of not less than 75 percent, the following examinations:

31           (1) The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards examination at a  
32 testing site provided by the national conference, which passage is a condition precedent to taking  
33 the state law examination;

34           (2) The West Virginia Laws, Rules, and Regulations Examination, administered by the  
35 International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and

36           (3) Any other examination required by the board; and

37           (h) Has paid all the appropriate fees.

38           A license to practice embalming issued by the board prior to July 1, 2012, shall for all  
39 purposes be considered a license issued under this section: *Provided*, That a person holding a  
40 license issued prior to July 1, 2012, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions of this  
41 article.

**§30-6-9. Funeral director license requirements.**

1           (a) The board shall issue a license to practice funeral directing to an applicant who meets  
2 the following requirements:

3           (1) ~~Completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution~~ Has successfully  
4 completed a program of study in Funeral Services Education consisting of not less than 30 hours

5 from a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and evidenced by  
6 an official transcript; and

7 (2) Either completed a two-year apprenticeship under the supervision of a licensee in  
8 charge or an active licensed funeral director and or completed a one-year apprenticeship with a  
9 mortuary school.

10 (3) Has paid all the appropriate fees; and

11 ~~(b) The two-year apprenticeship must consist of the following work:~~

12 ~~(1) Diligent attention to the work in the course, or regular and steady employment, and not~~  
13 ~~as a side issue to another employment;~~

14 ~~(2) Conducting not less than 35 disposition arrangements for individuals;~~

15 ~~(3) Conducting not less than 35 funeral and/or memorial services; and~~

16 (4) Passes with an average score of not less than 75 percent, the West Virginia Laws,  
17 Rules, and Regulations Examination.

18 ~~(e)(b)~~ A license to practice funeral directing issued by the board prior to July 1, 2002, shall  
19 for all purposes be considered a license issued under this section: *Provided*, That a person holding  
20 a license issued prior to July 1, 2022, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions of this  
21 article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify the education and apprenticeship requirements to obtain a license for funeral directors and embalmers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.