



TO: Members of the House General, Housing & Military Committee

FROM: Karen Richard; Chair Legislative Committee
Vermont Municipal Clerks' & Treasurers' Association

DATE: February 21, 2014

RE: H.661 Draft 1.1 Exhumation Requirements

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on H.661. Since Local Government Day we have tried to ascertain how Town Clerks across Vermont are handling these permits. As you can imagine this is not an activity that happens very often and for many Town Clerks has never happened. In my 16 years at Town Clerk in my town it has happened once.

We would like you to consider "shall attempt", that is very vague and is likely to not be consistent in each town. For instance, how does one prove attempt? Is the clerk provided documentation of an attempt prior to providing a permit to move the body?

The Clerk and Treasurer's Association would support strengthening the notice requirements. "In addition to the published notice, an applicant for a removal permit shall attempt to notify directly any spouse, child, parent, sibling or descendant of the deceased to ensure that any living relative of the deceased is aware of the applicant's desire to exhume the deceased's body."