

Chris Palermo - Discussion points:

- 1.) In my previous testimony I spoke about whether the VVMC's has the ability to receive NOR remains based on their permitted types of disposition (i.e., earth burial of casketed bodies in burial vaults and cremated bodies buried in the earth, not scattered). Should the reference of NOR remains going to VVMC be omitted for qualifying veterans until such time that the cemetery can make these provisions?
- 2.) In reading the portion of the text that speaks to adding NOR to the required Medical Examiner Permit for Cremation, the bill indicates that the laws of the state of origin must be followed. In Vermont, before NOR or Cremation can take place, a Medical Examiner permit for either is required. That much is clear. In speaking with Dr. Elizabeth Bundock, the state Chief Medical Examiner, we both have similar questions.

Questions to be considered:

If the jurisdiction of origin does not specifically permit NOR, then can a VT facility perform NOR on remains originating from that jurisdiction, regardless of the cremation permitting process of the out-of-state jurisdiction.

If the originating jurisdiction requires a medical examiner permit for cremation and is silent about NOR, will a VT facility be able to perform NOR with the out-of-state ME "cremation" permit, because VT considers cremation and NOR to be equivalent? (Referred text in bill: **comply with the laws of the state in which the person died, including obtaining a copy of a medical examiner's permit if one is required.**)

If the originating jurisdiction's statutes specifically allow cremation without a medical examiner permit and are silent about NOR, is a VT facility able to perform NOR?

Whether these questions are answered through the legislative or regulatory process, they should be addressed. The answers are important for both an entity looking to place a facility in Vermont, possibly looking to serve multiple states, and the licensed practitioners serving families looking for this type of disposition.

- 3.) We concur with the language giving the Office of Professional Regulation the authority to develop Vermont industry standards from which an NOR facility must operate, as well as the authority to regulate the industry.
- 4.) The VFDA gives its support for NOR as another option of final disposition for Vermonters. We look forward to partnering with stakeholders as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.