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H.41

Introduced by Representatives Burditt of West Rutland and Demar of
Enosburgh

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes; homicide; abuse of a corpse

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a new
felony statute for an individual who abuses a corpse. Specifically, this bill
makes it a felony for an individual to transport or destroy a corpse without
legal authorization. Additionally, this bill creates an aggravated felony penalty
for actions taken against a corpse to conceal a crime or otherwise avoid the
consequences of the commission of a crime.

An act relating to creating a felony penalty for abuse of a corpse

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2312 is added to read:

§ 2312. ABUSE OF A CORPSE

(a) A person is guilty of abuse of a corpse if the person, without legal
authorization, knowingly:

(1) transports, buries, or otherwise hides a corpse; or

1 (2) burns, mutilates, disfigures, dismembers, or otherwise destroys a
2 corpse.

3 (b) A person is guilty of aggravated abuse of a corpse if the person
4 intentionally:

5 (1) transports, buries, or otherwise hides a corpse to conceal a crime or
6 avoid apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of a crime;

7 (2) burns, mutilates, disfigures, dismembers, or otherwise destroys a
8 corpse to conceal a crime or avoid apprehension, prosecution, or conviction of
9 a crime; or

10 (3) perpetrates or attempts to perpetrate sexual assault against a corpse.

11 (c)(1) A person who commits the crime of abuse of a corpse shall be
12 imprisoned for not more than five years or fined not more than \$5,000.00, or
13 both.

14 (2) A person who commits the crime of aggravated abuse of a corpse
15 shall be imprisoned for not less than five years and a maximum term of 10
16 years and may be fined not more than \$10,000.00.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.