

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Judiciary to which was referred House Bill No. 41
3 entitled “An act relating to creating a felony penalty for abuse of a corpse”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 2312. ABUSE OF HUMAN BODY OR REMAINS

9 (a) A person is guilty of abuse of a human body or its remains if the person,
10 without legal authorization, knowingly hides, burns, mutilates, disfigures,
11 dismembers, or otherwise conceals or destroys a human body or its remains.

12 (b) A person is guilty of aggravated abuse of a human body or its remains
13 if the person intentionally:

14 (1) hides, transports, buries, or otherwise conceals a human body or its
15 remains to conceal a crime or avoid apprehension, prosecution, or conviction
16 of a crime;

17 (2) burns, mutilates, disfigures, dismembers, or otherwise destroys a
18 human body or its remains to conceal a crime or avoid apprehension,
19 prosecution, or conviction of a crime; or

20 (3) perpetrates or attempts to perpetrate a sexual act or sexual conduct
21 against a human body or its remains.

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

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

7 (d) As used in this section:

8 (1) “Sexual act” has the same meaning as in subdivision 3251(1) of this
9 title.

10 (2) “Sexual conduct” has the same meaning as in subdivision 3251(2) of
11 this title.

12 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 5211 is amended to read:

13 § 5211. UNAUTHORIZED BURIAL OR REMOVAL; PENALTY

14 A person who buries, entombs, transports, or removes the dead body of a
15 person without a burial-transit permit so to do, or in any other manner or at any
16 other time or place than as specified in such permit, shall be ~~imprisoned not~~
17 ~~more than five years or~~ fined not more than \$1,000.00, ~~or both.~~

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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1 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE