



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5354***

LCO No. 2286



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING TERRAMATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) (1) For purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (A) "Cemetery corporation" means any corporation formed for the  
4 disposal or burial of deceased human beings, by cremation, natural  
5 organic reduction or in a grave, mausoleum, vault, columbarium or  
6 other receptacle but does not include a family cemetery corporation or  
7 a private cemetery corporation. "Cemetery corporation" includes any  
8 cemetery, crematory or funeral home;

9 (B) "Holding facility" or "temporary storage area" means any area that  
10 (i) is designated for the retention of human remains prior to cremation  
11 or natural organic reduction; (ii) complies with all applicable public  
12 health laws; (iii) preserves the health and safety of the crematory or  
13 natural organic reduction facility personnel; and (iv) is secure from  
14 access by anyone other than authorized persons, with the interior of  
15 such area not visible from any area accessible to the general public;

16 (C) "Natural organic reduction permit" means the permit required by  
17 the Commissioner of Public Health for disposition of the remains of a  
18 deceased human being by natural organic reduction;

19 (D) "Natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated  
20 conversion of human remains to soil; and

21 (E) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a structure, room or  
22 other space in a building or real property where natural organic  
23 reduction of a human body occurs.

24 (2) Any cemetery corporation that operates a natural organic  
25 reduction facility shall have the following duties and obligations: (A)  
26 Each natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained in a clean,  
27 orderly and sanitary manner, with adequate ventilation and shall have  
28 a temporary storage area available to store the remains of deceased  
29 persons pending disposition by natural organic reduction, the interior  
30 of which shall not be accessible to the general public; (B) entrances and  
31 windows of any natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained  
32 at all times in order to secure privacy, including the tight closure of  
33 doors, the covering of windows and the provision of locked and secured  
34 entrances when not actively attended by authorized natural reduction  
35 facility personnel; (C) the natural organic reduction process shall be  
36 conducted in privacy and no person except authorized persons of such  
37 facility shall be admitted into the reduction area, holding facility or the  
38 temporary storage facility while the remains of deceased human beings  
39 are being naturally organically reduced; and (D) authorized persons, on  
40 admittance, shall comply with all rules of the cemetery corporation and  
41 not infringe upon the privacy of the remains of any deceased person.  
42 For the purposes of this section, "authorized persons" includes (i)  
43 licensed, registered funeral directors, registered residents and enrolled  
44 students of mortuary science; (ii) officers and trustees of the cemetery  
45 corporation; (iii) authorized employees and authorized agents of the  
46 cemetery corporation; (iv) public officers acting in the discharge of their  
47 duties; (v) authorized instructors of funeral directing schools; (vi)  
48 licensed physicians or nurses; and (vii) members of the immediate

49 family of the deceased person and authorized agents and designated  
50 representatives of such immediate family members;

51 (b) No natural organic reduction facility shall naturally organically  
52 reduce the remains of any deceased human being without the  
53 accompanying natural organic reduction permit, required and  
54 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, which shall constitute  
55 presumptive evidence of the identity of the deceased person's remains.  
56 A natural organic reduction authorization form, prescribed by the  
57 Commissioner of Public Health, shall accompany such permit and shall  
58 be signed by the immediate family member or authorizing agent who  
59 shall attest to the permission for the natural organic reduction of the  
60 deceased person and disclose to the natural organic reduction facility  
61 whether the body of such deceased person contains a battery, battery  
62 pack, power cell, radioactive implant or radioactive device or whether  
63 any such material was removed from the deceased person's body prior  
64 to the natural organic reduction process.

65 (c) The natural organic reduction process shall not commence until  
66 reasonable confirmation of the identity of the deceased person is made.  
67 Such proof may be in the form of, but not limited to, a signed affidavit  
68 from a licensed physician, a member of the immediate family of the  
69 deceased person, an authorizing agent or a court order from the  
70 Superior Court. The natural organic reduction facility shall ensure that  
71 the identification established by the natural organic reduction permit  
72 accompanies the remains of the deceased person during the natural  
73 organic reduction process and until the identity of the deceased person  
74 is accurately and legibly inscribed on the container in which the remains  
75 of the deceased person are temporarily placed.

76 (d) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall be delivered to the  
77 natural organic reduction facility in an alternative container or in  
78 external wrappings sufficient to contain the remains and that is  
79 designed to fully decompose in the natural reduction process. Such  
80 alternative container or external wrappings shall not be opened after  
81 delivery of the deceased person's body to the natural organic reduction

82 facility unless there exists good cause to: (A) Confirm the identity of the  
83 deceased person, (B) ensure that no material is enclosed that might  
84 cause injury to employees of the natural organic reduction facility or  
85 damage to property of the natural organic reduction facility, or (C) upon  
86 reasonable demand by members of the immediate family or the  
87 authorized agent of such immediate family.

88 (2) In any instance in which such alternative container or wrappings  
89 are opened after delivery of the deceased person to the natural organic  
90 reduction facility, such action shall only be conducted by the licensed  
91 funeral director or registered person who delivers the remains of the  
92 deceased person. A record shall be made by such natural organic  
93 reduction facility, at the time of any such opening, that includes the  
94 reason for such action, the signature of the person authorizing such  
95 opening and the names of any person who opens such container or  
96 wrappings and the witness to such opening. Any such record shall be  
97 retained in the permanent files of the natural organic reduction facility.  
98 Any such opening of such container or wrappings shall be conducted in  
99 the presence of a witness and shall comply with any rule or regulation  
100 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health that is intended to  
101 protect the integrity of the deceased person's remains and the health and  
102 safety of natural organic reduction facility personnel.

103 (e) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be delivered to  
104 a natural organic reduction facility in a casket that is not to be naturally  
105 organically reduced with the deceased person, written notice of such  
106 fact shall be made by the person responsible for the funeral  
107 arrangements of the deceased person to the natural organic reduction  
108 facility. Such written notice shall indicate that prior to natural organic  
109 reduction, the remains of the deceased person are to be transferred to an  
110 alternative container. The natural organic reduction facility shall retain  
111 such written notice in the permanent records of such facility.

112 (f) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall not be removed from  
113 the casket, alternative container or external wrappings in which they  
114 were delivered to the natural organic reduction facility unless a signed

115 authorization is provided by the person responsible for making funeral  
116 arrangements for such deceased person or by a public officer  
117 discharging his or her statutory duty. Such signed authorization shall  
118 be retained in the permanent records of such natural organic reduction  
119 facility.

120 (2) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be transferred  
121 to an alternative container, such transfer shall be conducted in privacy  
122 and with dignity and respect for such remains by the licensed funeral  
123 director or registered person who delivered such remains. Such transfer  
124 shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Department of Public  
125 Health that are intended to protect the dignity of the deceased person's  
126 remains and the health and safety of the natural organic reduction  
127 facility personnel.

128 (g) No person shall commingle or place the naturally organically  
129 reduced remains of more than one deceased person in a reduction  
130 container at any one time except upon provision of a signed  
131 authorization provided by the person responsible for making the  
132 funeral arrangements for the deceased person and the signed approval  
133 of the natural organic reduction facility. Such authorizations and  
134 approvals shall be retained in the permanent records of the natural  
135 organic reduction facility.

136 (h) (1) Upon the completion of the natural organic reduction of the  
137 remains of a deceased person, the interior of the natural organic  
138 reduction container shall be thoroughly swept or otherwise cleaned so  
139 as to render the natural organic reduction container reasonably free of  
140 all matter. The contents of such reduction container shall be placed into  
141 an individual container and not commingled with other remains. The  
142 natural organic reduction permit shall be attached to the individual  
143 container in preparation for final processing.

144 (2) Use of a magnet and sieve, or other appropriate method of  
145 separation, may be used to divide such remains from unrecognizable  
146 incidental or foreign material.

147 (3) Any incidental or foreign material of the natural organic reduction  
148 process shall be disposed of in a safe manner in compliance with all  
149 sanitary rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Public Health for  
150 such byproducts.

151 (4) Such remains shall be pulverized until no single fragment is  
152 recognizable as skeletal tissue and such pulverized remains shall be  
153 transferred to a container or to multiple containers, if so requested in  
154 writing by the person responsible for making the funeral arrangements  
155 for the deceased person. Any such container shall have inside  
156 dimensions of suitable size to contain such naturally organically  
157 reduced remains and shall be accurately and legibly labeled with the  
158 name of the person whose remains are contained therein, in a manner  
159 as prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

160 (i) (1) Upon completion of the natural organic reduction process, the  
161 cemetery corporation shall notify the person responsible for making the  
162 funeral arrangements for such deceased person that the natural organic  
163 reduction process is complete and that the remains are prepared to be  
164 disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The  
165 person responsible for making the funeral arrangements for such  
166 deceased person shall be responsible for the final disposition of such  
167 remains. Such remains shall be disposed of through the scattering of  
168 such remains in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery, or  
169 by prior authorization by the cemetery corporation, by placing such  
170 remains in a grave, crypt or niche, or retention of such remains,  
171 pursuant to prior authorization, by the person responsible for making  
172 the funeral arrangements for such deceased person. Such remains shall  
173 not be recoverable once they are scattered or interred.

174 (2) If, after a period of one hundred twenty days from the date of the  
175 completion of the natural organic reduction process, the person  
176 responsible for the funeral arrangements for the deceased person has  
177 not instructed the cemetery corporation to arrange for the final  
178 disposition of the remains or claimed the remains, the cemetery  
179 corporation may dispose of such remains in any manner prescribed by

180 this subsection. The cemetery corporation shall keep a permanent  
181 record identifying the site of final disposition for any such remains. The  
182 person responsible for the funeral arrangements for such deceased  
183 person shall be responsible for reimbursing the cemetery corporation  
184 for all reasonable expenses incurred for the disposing of such remains  
185 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. After the  
186 disposition of such remains, the cemetery corporation shall be  
187 discharged from any legal obligation or liability concerning the remains.

188 (3) Unless the person responsible for making the funeral  
189 arrangements for such deceased person provides written permission, no  
190 person shall place remains of more than one person in the same  
191 temporary container or urn.

192 (j) Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility who is  
193 responsible for conducting the daily operations of the natural organic  
194 reduction process shall be certified by an organization approved by the  
195 Commissioner of Public Health. Proof of such certification shall be  
196 posted in the natural organic reduction facility and available for  
197 inspection at any time. Any new employee of a natural organic  
198 reduction facility required to be certified pursuant to this subsection  
199 shall be certified not later than one year after commencement of such  
200 employment. Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility  
201 required to be certified pursuant to this subsection and employed by  
202 such facility prior to the effective date of this section shall be certified  
203 not later than one year after such effective date. Such certification shall  
204 be completed every five years from the date of such certification.

205 (k) (1) Any cemetery corporation that seeks approval to operate a  
206 natural organic reduction facility shall submit for approval by the  
207 Commissioner of Public Health the following:

208 (A) A list of the directors, employees and certificate holders of the  
209 cemetery corporation;

210 (B) A certified survey of the site and location where such facility will  
211 be located;

212 (C) A business plan for the operation of the natural organic reduction  
213 facility that includes, but is not limited to, the number of expected  
214 natural organic reductions per year, the number of natural organic  
215 reduction units to be used, all manufacturing, capital costs and  
216 financing, the anticipated number of employees, the types of services  
217 provided and pricing thereof;

218 (D) A description of the impact of the proposed natural organic  
219 reduction facility on other natural organic reduction facilities, if any,  
220 within the county where such facility is located;

221 (E) Plans, designs and costs of any structures to be erected or  
222 retrofitted for the natural organic reduction facility use; and

223 (F) A description of any other approvals or permits required by state  
224 law or municipal ordinance.

225 (2) The commissioner shall not approve any natural organic  
226 reduction facility that does not have all other approvals or permits. The  
227 commissioner may request from such applicant any additional  
228 information or documentation and technical assistance deemed  
229 necessary to review such information. Such information shall not be  
230 deemed complete until any requested additional information has been  
231 received by the commissioner. The commissioner shall approve or deny  
232 the proposed natural organic reduction facility not later than ninety  
233 days after completion of the submission of all information by written  
234 notice. If the commissioner denies any application for such a facility,  
235 such written notice shall state the reasons for such denial.

236 (l) Not later than October 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Public Health  
237 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54  
238 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Such  
239 regulations shall take effect not later than January 1, 2026.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	New section



**Statement of Purpose:**

To authorize the natural organic reduction of human remains as a final disposition of such remains.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*