



Councilmember Christina Henderson

AN AMENDMENT
1
IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Date: September 22, 2026
Offered by: Councilmember Christina Henderson
To: B26-547, the Posthumous Care Modernization Amendment Act of 2026
Version: ☐ Introduced
☐ Committee Report
☐ Committee Print
☐ First Reading
☒ Engrossed
☐ Enrolled
☐ Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute

Amendment:

1. Sections 3 and 4 are redesignated as sections 4 and 5.
2. A new section 3 is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. Title I of the Vital Records Modernization Amendment Act of 2018, effective October 30, 2018 (D.C. Law 22-164; D.C. Official Code § 7-231.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

“(a) Section 101 (D.C. Official Code § 7-231.01) is amended as follows:

“(1) Paragraph (1) is redesignated as paragraph (1A).

“(2) A new paragraph (1) is added to read as follows:

““(1) “Alkaline hydrolysis” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 3(1A) of the District of Columbia Funeral Services Regulatory Act of 1984, effective May 22, 1984 (D.C. Law 5-84; D.C. Official Code § 3-402(1A)).”.

“(3) Paragraph (30) is amended by striking the phrase “human ashes recovered after cremation.” and inserting the phrase “the product of cremation or alkaline hydrolysis.” in its place.

“(4) Paragraph (50) is repealed.

“(b) Section 105(d) (D.C. Official Code § 7-231.05(d)) is amended by striking the phrase “or cremation” and inserting the phrase “cremation, or alkaline hydrolysis” in its place.

“(c) Section 117(a)(4) (D.C. Official Code § 7-231.17(a)(4)) is amended by striking the word “resomation” and inserting the phrase “alkaline hydrolysis” in its place.”.

Rationale:

This amendment addresses concerns raised by DC Health after 1st reading on Bill 26-0547 that the bill’s current provisions defining cremation and authorizing alkaline hydrolysis would create implementation challenges for the Office of Vital Records within DC Health. Current District law prohibits the transportation, interment, or other disposition of human remains without a permit from DC Health, but excludes cremated ashes from the definition of “human remains”. This allows individuals to keep ashes of loved ones within their homes without penalty. This current exemption, however, does not include the ash-like products produced by alkaline hydrolysis. The amendment would add an exemption for the products of alkaline hydrolysis to the definition of “human remains”.

Further, current District law uses the term “resomation” instead of its synonym “alkaline hydrolysis” within the Vital Records portion of the D.C. Code, which will create confusion once B26-0547 adds the latter term in the Funeral Services portion of the Code. The amendment therefore replaces references to “resomation” with “alkaline hydrolysis”.