

HOUSE No. 5202

By Mr. Bly of Saugus, petition of Belden G. Bly, Jr., relative to the burial of a child for whom the Department of Public Welfare has the responsibility of providing foster care. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE BURIAL OF A CHILD FOR WHOM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING FOSTER CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 119 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 23B the following section: —
3 *Section 23C.* Upon the death of a child for whom the
4 department has the responsibility of providing foster care, the
5 commonwealth shall pay for the expense of the funeral and burial
6 of such deceased child the sum of three hundred dollars; provided,
7 that the deceased left no estate and that his kindred are unable to
8 pay for his decent burial; and provided, further, that the funeral
9 director engaged in conducting the funeral and burial of said
10 deceased child shall perform the services and furnish the materials
11 in connection therewith as follows: — removal of body; procuring
12 of death certificate and burial permit; embalming and dressing of
13 body; furnishing suitable casket, bearing metal plate with name of
14 deceased engraved thereon; furnishing outer case of pine wood;
15 furnishing hearse for transporting body of the deceased to a
16 cemetery within a distance of ten miles; furnishing conveyance for
17 transporting to such cemetery the immediate family and foster

18 parents, if such deceased child was in the care of foster parents, of
19 the deceased; and procuring of a clergyman, of the religion that the
20 deceased professed, to officiate at the funeral.

21 The department shall also pay to the funeral director such
22 additional sum, if any, not exceeding seventy-five dollars, as may
23 be expended for obtaining a burial place for the body of the
24 deceased, opening the grave, obtaining the use of interment
25 devices, transporting the body of the deceased to a cemetery
26 beyond a distance of ten miles and providing for the grave a
27 suitable marker bearing the dates of birth and death of such
28 deceased child.

29 Is such deceased child was in the care of foster parents at the time
30 of death, such foster parents may make the necessary
31 arrangements for the funeral and burial.