SENATE . . . No. 165

To accompany the petition of Daniel F. O'Brien that provision be made for the formation of corporations for the carrying out of non-profit funeral service plans, so-called. Insurance.

The Commonwealth of Wassachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two.

An Act providing for the formation of corporations for the carrying out of non-profit funeral service plans, so-called.

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

- 1 The General Laws are hereby amended by insert-
- 2 ing after chapter 176D, as inserted by chapter 659
- 3 of the acts of 1947, the following new chapter: —
- 4 Chapter 176E.
- 5 Non-profit Funeral Service Corporations.
- 6 Section 1. Any corporation organized under the
- 7 laws of the commonwealth for the purpose of estab-
- 8 lishing, maintaining and operating a non-profit fu-
- 9 neral service plan whereby funeral service may be pro-
- 10 vided by such corporation, or by any funeral director
- 11 with which it has a contract for such service, to such
- 12 of the public who may become subscribers to said plan
- 13 under a contract which entitles each subscriber to

14 certain funeral service shall be governed by this chap-

15 ter and shall be exempt from all provisions of the in-

16 surance laws of the commonwealth, except as other-

17 wise provided in this chapter.

18 Section 2. Persons desiring to form such a non-

19 profit funeral service corporation shall incorporate as

20 provided in section three of chapter one hundred and

21 eighty. Every certificate of organization of a corpo-

22 ration subject to this chapter filed under said chapter

23 one hundred and eighty shall have endorsed thereon

24 or attached thereto the consent of the commissioner of

25 insurance.

26 Section 3. Any corporation subject to this chapter

27 may enter into contracts for the rendering of funeral

28 service to any of its subscribers with funeral directors

29 referred to in section one. The rates charged by such

30 corporation to the subscribers for funeral service shall

31 at all times be subject to the approval of the com-

32 missioner of insurance. All rates of payments to

33 funeral directors made by such corporation under

34 contracts provided for in this section shall be ap-

35 proved prior to payment by the commissioner of in-

36 surance.

37 Section 4. Every such corporation shall annually,

38 on or before the first day of March, file in the office

39 of the commissioner of insurance a statement, verified

40 by at least two of the principal officers of said corpo-

41 ration, showing its condition as of the thirty-first

42 day of December next preceding. Such statement

43 shall be in such form and shall contain such other

44 matters as the commissioner of insurance shall pre-

45 scribe.

46 Section 5. The commissioner of insurance, or any 47 deputy or examiner or any other person whom said

48 commissioner shall designate, may visit any such cor-

49 poration and examine into its affairs, shall have free

50 access to all of the books, papers and documents of

51 the corporation that relate to its business, and may

52 summon as witnesses and examine under oath its offi-

53 cers, agents or employees or other persons in rela-

54 tion to its affairs, transactions and condition.

55 Section 6. All acquisition costs in connection with

56 the solicitation of subscribers to such non-profit fu-

57 neral service plans shall at all times be subject to the

58 approval of the commissioner of insurance.

59 Section 7. The funds of any corporation subject to

60 this chapter shall be invested only in securities per-

61 mitted by the laws of the commonwealth for the in-

62 vestment of assets of life insurance companies.

63 Section 8. Any dispute arising between a corpo-

64 ration subject to this chapter and any funeral director

65 with which such corporation has a contract for funeral

66 service as authorized by this chapter may be submitted

67 to the commissioner of insurance for his decision with

68 respect thereto.

69 Section 9. The dissolution or liquidation of any

70 corporation subject to this chapter shall be under the

71 supervision of the commissioner of insurance, who

72 shall have, with respect thereto, all powers granted to

73 him under chapter one hundred and seventy-five with

74 respect to insurance companies.

75 Section 10. Every corporation subject to this chap-

76 ter is hereby declared to be a charitable and benevo-

77 lent corporation, and its property shall be exempt

78 from state, county, district and municipal taxes.