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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3958

03/05/2026 Authored by Huot
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to cemeteries; allowing private and public cemeteries to bury certain
1.3 animals in green burials; amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, sections
1.4 306.991, by adding a subdivision; 307.14, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 306.991, is amended by adding
1.7 a subdivision to read:

1.8 Subd. 7. Animals. (a) A public cemetery may allow a domesticated dog or cat that is
1.9 normally maintained in or near the household of the dog's or cat's owner, or a chicken, that
1.10 is deceased no more than 72 hours before the burial to be buried with a human body if the
1.11 burial requirements under this section are met and the dog, cat, or chicken:

1.12 (1) is not embalmed;

1.13 (2) is enclosed in (i) a biodegradable casket or shroud with the human body, or (ii) a
1.14 separate biodegradable container or shroud; and

1.15 (3) is not buried or enclosed in a vault or outer burial container.

1.16 (b) A public cemetery may allow the cremated remains of a domesticated dog or cat that
1.17 is normally maintained in or near the household of the dog's or cat's owner, or a chicken,
1.18 to be buried with a human body or human cremated remains if the cremated remains of the
1.19 dog, cat, or chicken are in a biodegradable container or shroud.

1.20 (c) A chicken being buried consistent with this subdivision is exempt from the
1.21 requirements under Minnesota Rules, parts 1721.0690 to 1721.0740.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 307.14, is amended by adding a
2.2 subdivision to read:

2.3 Subd. 7. **Animals.** (a) A private cemetery may allow a domesticated dog or cat that is
2.4 normally maintained in or near the household of the dog's or cat's owner, or a chicken, that
2.5 is deceased no more than 72 hours before the burial to be buried with a human body if the
2.6 burial requirements under this section are met and the dog, cat, or chicken:

2.7 (1) is not embalmed;

2.8 (2) is enclosed in (i) a biodegradable casket or shroud, or (ii) a separate biodegradable
2.9 container or shroud; and

2.10 (3) is not buried or enclosed in a vault or outer burial container.

2.11 (b) A private cemetery may allow the cremated remains of a domesticated dog or cat
2.12 that is normally maintained in or near the household of the dog's or cat's owner, or a chicken,
2.13 to be buried with a human body or human cremated remains if the cremated remains of the
2.14 dog, cat, or chicken are in a biodegradable container or shroud.

2.15 (c) A chicken being buried consistent with this subdivision is exempt from the
2.16 requirements under Minnesota Rules, parts 1721.0690 to 1721.0740.