A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DEFINE THE ENTRY-LEVEL EXAMINATION NECESSARY FOR A
FUNERAL DIRECTOR, TO MODIFY THE RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
LICENSEES FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS, TO ALLOW FOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD DURING STATES OF EMERGENCY FOR RECEIPT OF PERMITTING FEES
BY THE BOARD, AND TO REQUIRE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND
REGISTERS OF DEEDS TO ACCEPT PAPER DEATH CERTIFICATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 90-210.20 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
"(e1) "Entry-level examination in funeral directing" means an examination (i) offered as a
component of a final or capstone course in a mortuary science program approved by the Board
or (ii) accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education or an examination
equivalent to the State Board Examination-Arts in Funeral Directing to assess competency in the
following subjects:

(1) Funeral arranging and directing.
(2) Funeral service marketing and merchandising.
(3) Funeral service counseling.
(4) Legal and regulatory compliance.
(5) Cemetery and crematory operations."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 90-210.25(b) reads as rewritten:
"(b) Persons Licensed under the Laws of Other Jurisdictions. –

…

(1a) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Board shall grant
licenses to funeral directors licensed in other jurisdictions if the applicant has
satisfied all of the following:

a. The applicant holds an active, valid license in good standing as a
funeral director issued by the other jurisdiction for at least 10 years.
b. The applicant has demonstrated knowledge of the laws and rules
governing the profession in North Carolina through achieving a
passing score on the law and rules exam administered on behalf of the
Board.
c. The applicant has submitted proof of the applicant's good moral
character.

February 24, 2021
Nothing in this subdivision shall preclude any individual from obtaining a license by meeting the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, or subdivision (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 1.(c) G.S. 90-210.67(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Any person selling a preneed funeral contract, whether funded by a trust deposit or a prearrangement insurance policy, shall remit to the Board, within 10 days of the sale, a fee not to exceed twenty dollars ($20.00) for each sale and a copy of each contract. The person shall pay a late fee of not more than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for each late filing and payment. The fees shall not be remitted in cash. If the person resides in a county that is under a state of emergency, as defined in G.S. 166A-19.3(19), at the time of the sale, then the Board shall extend the period to file and pay the fee for each sale and copy of each contract to 30 days from the date of the sale."

SECTION 2. It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure a smooth transition away from a manual, paper-based process for creating death records toward a secure, web-based, online electronic death registration system. Accordingly, as the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Vital Records, progresses toward statewide implementation of the North Carolina Database Application for Vital Events (NCDAVE) system, each local health department and each local register of deeds shall accept paper death certificates until December 31, 2022.

SECTION 3. Sections 1(a) and 1(b) of this act become effective on October 1, 2022, and apply to applications for licensure on or after that date. Section 1(c) of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to sales of contracts on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.