



MINNESOTA
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

Professional. Compassionate. Dignified.

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Co-Chair Bierman, Co-Chair Backer, and Members of the House Health Committee,

On behalf of 650+ funeral directors and 250+ funeral establishments, the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association (MFDA) strongly supports House File 85, which modifies the requirements for mortuary science internships.

Entering the funeral profession in Minnesota requires completion of a registered internship of at least 2,080 hours under the supervision of a licensed mortician. Under current law, an individual cannot begin this internship until after completing their accredited mortuary science program. This creates an unnecessary delay between a student's education and their entry into the profession.

House File 85 allows mortuary science students to begin their registered internship while enrolled in an accredited program. The bill also establishes a role for an alternate supervising licensee, ensuring continuity in an intern's training when a primary supervisor is unavailable. Importantly, the bill includes safeguards requiring that interns who have not completed coursework in embalming and restorative arts be in the physical presence of their supervising licensee when performing those procedures.

These changes will help aspiring funeral directors gain practical experience sooner, strengthening the pipeline of qualified professionals prepared to serve Minnesota families.

MFDA thanks the bill's author, Representative Huot, and co-authors: Representatives Schomacker, Backer, and Anderson, for their leadership on this important issue. We urge you to support House File 85 and thank you for considering the perspectives of Minnesota funeral directors.

Thank you,

Miki Tufto
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