

- SUBJECT:** Exempting some funeral establishments from certain restrictions
- COMMITTEE:** Land and Resource Management — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Deshotel, Leman, Biedermann, Burrows, Craddick, Spiller, Thierry  
2 nays — Romero, Rosenthal
- WITNESSES:** For — Rick Allen and Jason Harrell, Texas Funeral Directors Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Harvey Hilderbran, Texas Funeral Directors Association)  
  
Against — Bill Wright, Greenwood/Mount Olivet Cemetery Association and Texas Cemeteries and Crematories Association; Arlie Davenport, Texas Cemeteries and Crematories Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Georgia Keysor)  
  
On — Glenn Bower, Texas Funeral Service Commission
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code sec. 711.008 prohibits, with some specified exceptions, the establishment or operation of a cemetery or use of any land for the interment of remains within certain distances of municipalities depending on population.  
  
Interested parties have noted that while a columbarium for storing urns containing cremated remains may be located in cemeteries or at churches, colleges, and universities, funeral homes currently are unable to have a columbarium on site due to the statutory prohibition of cemeteries and other establishments for interred remains being located and operated within city limits.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1591 would exempt a licensed funeral establishment that entombs only cremated remains in a columbarium on its premises from the cemetery location restrictions under Health and Safety Code sec. 711.008.

HB 1591  
House Research Organization  
page 2

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.