

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2260**

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan and others relative to the payment of funeral expenses of indigent persons. Public Health.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PETITION OF:

Benjamin Swan	Kay Khan
Gloria L. Fox	Linda Dorcena Forry
Thomas P. Kennedy	Stephen M. Brewer
Byron Rushing	James B. Eldridge
Elizabeth A. Malia	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REALISTIC ALLOWABLE COSTS FOR FUNERALS OF INDIGENTS.

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

1 Chapter 117A of the General Laws, as appearing in Section 4 of  
2 Chapter 225 of the Acts of 1991, is hereby amended by striking out  
3 section 10, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following section:—  
5 Section 10. In case of the decease of a poor and indigent person,  
6 the Commonwealth shall pay for the expense of the funeral and  
7 burial of such person a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars; pro-  
8 vided, however, that the total expense of the funeral does not exceed  
9 three thousand dollars; provided, further, that the cost of such  
10 funeral and burial shall include payment for a suitable grave marker,  
11 bearing the decedent's name and dates of birth and death, if known;  
12 and provided, further, that any payment made by the Commonwealth  
13 shall be reduced by whatever resources may exist in the estate of  
14 said person. The funeral director engaged in conducting the funeral  
15 and burial of said deceased person shall perform the services and  
16 furnish the materials in connection therewith as follows:— removal  
17 of the body; procuring of death certificate and burial permit;

18 embalming and dressing of body; furnishing suitable burial garment;  
19 furnishing suitable casket, bearing metal plate with name of  
20 deceased engraved thereon; furnishing outer case of pine wood; fur-  
21 nishing hearse for transporting body of deceased to cemetery; fur-  
22 nishing conveyance for transporting to such cemetery the immediate  
23 family of the deceased; procuring of a clergyman, of the religion that  
24 the deceased professed, to officiate at the funeral; procuring a burial  
25 place for the body of the deceased; opening the grave obtaining the  
26 use of internment devices and notwithstanding any general or special  
27 law to the contrary, procurement and placement of the aforemen-  
28 tioned grave marker.