

shall not be necessary to state any cause for such removal.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 16, 1897.

No. 350, S.]

[Published April 19, 1897.

CHAPTER 248.

AN ACT to regulate the transportation and burial of bodies of persons dead of contagious disease.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Transportation of bodies dead of contagious disease prohibited.

SECTION 1. The transportation of bodies of persons dead of diphtheria, scarlet fever, small pox, Asiatic cholera (cholerae), leprosy, typhus or ship fever, or yellow fever, is absolutely forbidden. For all sanitary purposes, membranous croup must be considered and treated as diphtheria.

How bodies must be prepared and wrapped for shipment.

SECTION 2. The bodies of those who have died of anthrax, puerperal fever, typhoid fever, erysipelas, measles, and other contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases, must be wrapped in a sheet thoroughly saturated with a strong solution of bi-chloride of mercury, in the proportion of one ounce of bi-chloride of mercury to a gallon of water, and incased in an air-tight zinc, tin, copper or lead (lined) coffin, or in an air-tight (iron) casket, hermetically sealed, and all enclosed, in a strong, tight, wooden box; or the body must be prepared for shipment by being wrapped in a sheet and disinfected by a solu-

tion of bi-chloride of mercury, as above, and placed in a strong coffin or casket, and said coffin or casket encased in a hermetically sealed (soldered) zinc, copper or tin case, and all enclosed in a strong outside wooden box of material not less than one inch and a half thick.

SECTION 3. In cases of contagious, infectious, or communicable diseases, the body must not be accompanied by articles which have been exposed to the infection of the disease. And in addition to a permit from a board of health, or proper health authority, station agents will require an affidavit from the shipping undertaker, stating how the body has been prepared and kind of coffin or casket used, which must be in conformity with section 2.

Infected articles must not accompany the deceased. Permit from the board of health must be obtained.

SECTION 4. The bodies of persons dead of diseases that are not contagious, infectious, nor communicable, may be received for transportation to local points in same state, when encased in a sound coffin or metallic case, and enclosed in a strong wooden box, securely fastened so it may be safely handled. But when it is proposed to transport them out of the state (unless the time required for transportation from the initial point to destination does not exceed eighteen hours), they must be encased in an air-tight zinc, tin, copper, or lead lined coffin, or casket encased in a (soldered) zinc, copper, or tin case and all enclosed in a strong outside wooden box of material not less than one inch thick. In all cases the outside box must be provided with four iron chest handles.

Persons dying of non-infectious disease may be transported under certain conditions.

SECTION 5. Every dead body must be accompanied by a transit permit from a board of health or proper health authority, giving permission for the removal, and showing the name of the deceased, age, place of death, cause of death (whether of a contagious or infectious nature), the point to which it is to be shipped, medical attendant, and name of undertaker.

Must be accompanied with a transit permit.

SECTION 6. It is intended that no dead body shall be moved which may be the means of spreading disease, therefore, all disinterred

No dead body shall be moved if it be the means of spreading disease.

bodies dead from any disease or cause, will be treated as infectious and dangerous to the public health, and shall not be accepted for transportation unless said removal has been approved by the state board of health, and the consent of the health authority of the locality where the body is disinterred, and the authority of the locality to which the corpse is consigned, has been first obtained, and the disinterred remains enclosed in a hermetically sealed (soldered) zinc, tin or copper-lined coffin, or box encased in a hermetically sealed (soldered) zinc, tin or copper case.

Permit not to be granted when death is caused by "heart failure."

SECTION 7. Local boards of health should refuse to grant a permit where the cause of death is given as "heart failure," unless the physician states that it was not the result of diphtheria.

Permits needed in cases of disinterment.

SECTION 8. In case of disinterment, the permit from the state board of health must be attached to the transit permit and delivered to the person in charge of the corpse. If more than one body is shipped at one time, separate permit must be issued for each body.

Penalty for violating the provisions of this law.

SECTION 9. Any person or persons, company or corporation, who shall refuse or neglect to comply with any of the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum of not less than twenty-five dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, for each and every offense, or by confinement in the county jail for a period of not less than thirty nor more than sixty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

Repealing section.

SECTION 10. All acts or part of acts inconsistent with or contravening any of the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 16, 1897.