

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2542 (Patterson) – As Amended March 18, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes Marissa’s Law, which transfers the right of control over a deceased person’s remains to the next of kin when the person with the right of control is deceased or subject to a restraining order for domestic violence against the deceased at the time of their death.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No known state costs.

COMMENTS:

Existing law lays out a sequence of individuals vested with the right to dispose of a deceased’s remains. In the case of a child, the existing statute vests that right with surviving parents. This author-sponsored bill arises out of situation in the member’s district where a man subject to a domestic violence restraining order killed his child and wife, and nevertheless had the right of control over the child’s remains, by operation of existing law. He chose not to bury the child with his mother, over the objections of the child’s grandparents. This bill modifies existing law to account for circumstances where the person who receives the right of control over the deceased by operation of law may not be the appropriate person to make decisions regarding the deceased’s final resting place.

Analysis Prepared by: Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081