

Update March 2024: Republicans have majority in both bodies in Arizona. Bill passed House committees unanimously, passed House 47-8; now on 2nd reading in Senate.

<https://coppercourier.com/2024/01/16/arizona-bill-human-compsting-burial-method/>

Arizona Legislature introduces bill to legalize new burial method

By Robert Gundran

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California, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington all have laws on the books that allow for human composting. [Also Colorado]

Most Arizonans choose between burial or cremation for themselves and their loved ones after they die. But one local lawmaker introduced a bill that would allow people to return to the earth in a more renewable way.

Human composting may sound a bit grim, but it's a way of turning someone's remains into fertile soil that can be used in a garden.

Instead of a corpse staying in a casket on an expensive plot of land or remaining as ashes inside an urn, this burial method allows a person to become part of the earth again and promote growth of plants.

Each person who chooses human composting over traditional burial or cremation prevents a metric ton of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, according to Recompose, a human composting company.

California, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington all have laws on the books that allow for human composting.

Arizona could become the latest, as Republican State Rep. Laurin Hendrix introduced HB 2081 to allow human composting as an additional legal way to dispose of a body after death.

The bill has been assigned to committee in the Legislature but has not yet been voted on.

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