

SENATE BILL 439

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CF HB 106

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Morticians and Funeral Directors – Apprenticeships**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain education requirement for an individual appearing
4 before the Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors for approval
5 of an apprentice license; requiring a licensed apprentice who was enrolled in a
6 mortuary science program at the time the license was granted to be enrolled in the
7 program for the duration of the apprenticeship unless the licensed apprentice
8 graduates; clarifying that the practical experience of an apprentice is required to
9 include at least a certain number of working hours; and generally relating to
10 apprenticeships under the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Health Occupations
13 Section 7–306
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Health Occupations**

19 7–306.

20 (a) An individual shall obtain an apprentice license from the Board before
21 beginning an apprenticeship in this State.

22 (b) (1) A mortician apprentice shall have an apprentice sponsor who:

23 (i) Is a licensed mortician whose license is in good standing with the
24 Board; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) Is employed by the same funeral establishment that employs the
2 apprentice.

3 (2) A funeral director apprentice shall have an apprentice sponsor who:

4 (i) Is a licensed mortician or funeral director whose license is in good
5 standing with the Board; and

6 (ii) Is employed by the same funeral establishment that employs the
7 apprentice.

8 (3) An apprentice may have more than one apprentice sponsor.

9 (c) An applicant for an apprentice license shall pay to the Board a fee set by the
10 Board.

11 (d) (1) **(I) [Prior to an] AN individual [appearing before the Board for**
12 **approval of an apprentice license, the individual must complete two-thirds of the academic**
13 **credits for] SHALL BE ENROLLED IN OR HAVE GRADUATED FROM** a mortuary science
14 **program at a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service or approved by**
15 **the Board[, with a 2.0 grade point average or higher that is verified with a certified copy of**
16 **the college transcript] BEFORE THE INDIVIDUAL APPEARS BEFORE THE BOARD FOR**
17 **APPROVAL OF AN APPRENTICE LICENSE.**

18 **(II) A LICENSED APPRENTICE WHO WAS ENROLLED IN A**
19 **MORTUARY SCIENCE PROGRAM AT THE TIME THE LICENSE WAS GRANTED SHALL**
20 **REMAIN ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE DURATION OF THE APPRENTICESHIP**
21 **UNLESS THE LICENSED APPRENTICE GRADUATES.**

22 (2) The applicant and a licensed mortician or licensed funeral director shall
23 appear before the Board to seek the Board's approval for an apprentice license for the
24 applicant.

25 (3) On termination of the sponsor-apprentice relationship, both the
26 sponsor and the apprentice shall independently notify the Board in writing of:

27 (i) The date of termination;

28 (ii) The name, date of death, date of service, and evidence of the
29 service for each decedent for whom a funeral service was conducted under subsection
30 (e)(1)(i) of this section in which the apprentice participated; and

31 (iii) The name, date of death, date of the preparation for disposition,
32 and a copy of the decedent's filed death certificate for each decedent for whom the
33 apprentice assisted in accordance with subsection (e)(1)(ii) of this section.

1 (4) Prior approval must be granted by the Board before a change of
2 sponsorship occurs.

3 (e) (1) The practical experience of an apprentice shall include:

4 (i) Participation in at least 20 funerals;

5 (ii) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, assistance
6 in the preparation and embalming of at least 20 dead human bodies for final disposition;
7 and

8 (iii) Completion of **AT LEAST** 1,000 working hours in a licensed
9 funeral establishment under the direct supervision of the apprentice sponsor.

10 (2) For an apprentice funeral director, the practical experience under
11 paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection may not include embalming.

12 (3) For purposes of paragraph (1)(iii) of this subsection, direct supervision
13 may include instruction by a licensed mortician or funeral director employed or supervised
14 by the apprentice sponsor that is observed in person by the apprentice sponsor.

15 (f) While the license is effective, an apprentice license authorizes the licensee to
16 assist a licensed mortician or funeral director in the practice of mortuary science or funeral
17 direction only as part of a training program to become a licensed mortician or funeral
18 director.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2020.