



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

2020 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 439

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Health Occupations – Morticians and Funeral Directors – Apprenticeships

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill would require an applicant for an apprentice license issued by the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors to be enrolled in or have graduated from a mortuary science program, to stay enrolled in the program during the apprenticeship, and to complete at least 1,000 working hours in a licensed funeral establishment under the direct supervision of the apprentice sponsor.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (“Board”) ***Supports*** SB 439. The Board voted unanimously in favor of supporting this bill as proposed.

This bill will address workforce development in the State of Maryland by increasing our apprenticeship base by nearly 50%. It will generate more employment opportunities for licensed professional practice. This bill will create more real-world training and add additional experience for apprentices during their professional education. By supporting more hands-on training, apprentices will become better prepared for practice, which will increase professionalism and decrease complaints, a topic of discussion noted in the Board’s “2016 Sunset Report.”

A rise in the licensee population would create an increase in revenues to the Board of approximately \$32,000.00 annually from additional licensure and testing fees. The additional workload can be accomplished by existing Board staff. This would increase Board revenues without adding new fees or increasing fees to the existing licensing base.

The Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 106. If you require additional information, please contact Christy Collins, Executive Director at (410) 764-4714.

The opinion of the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or Administration.