

# **MB\_FAV\_Morticians & Funeral Directors Board\_SB 439**

Uploaded by: Bailey, Mark

Position: FAV



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

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## Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

### 2020 SESSION POSITION PAPER

**BILL NO: SB 439**

**COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**POSITION: Support**

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**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.*

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## **MSFDA\_Jim Doyle\_FAV\_SB0439**

Uploaded by: Doyle, James

Position: FAV



MARYLAND STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## SB 439

### Health Occupations-Morticians and Funeral Directors-Apprenticeships

#### **Position of MD State Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA): SUPPORT**

##### WHAT THE CURRENT LAW IS:

- Current law requires an individual to serve an apprenticeship with a funeral establishment, where he or she will participate in at least 20 funerals, assist in the preparation and embalming of at least 20 bodies, and complete 1000 hours working in the funeral establishment. All of this must be done under the direct supervision of a licensed mortician.
- Current law requires that a person may not serve as an apprentice until completing 2/3ds of the academic credits in a mortuary science program at an accredited school.

##### WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- SB 439 eliminates the requirement that a person first complete 2/3ds of the educational requirements before becoming an apprentice.
- SB 439 permits an individual to become an apprentice as long as the person is enrolled in or has graduated from a mortuary science program.
- The Bill also allows an apprentice to work more than 1000-hours as an apprentice, if desired.

##### WHY SB 439 SHOULD BE PASSED:

- SB 439 will open up employment opportunities for students to be apprentices as soon as they enter and enroll in mortuary science school. It repeals the restriction contained in current law that prohibits employment as an apprentice until a student has completed most of his educational requirements.
- In allowing for earlier experience as an apprentice in a funeral home, a student can also decide much earlier whether he wants to continue in funeral direction, rather than not having any practical experience in the field until he has completed most of his schooling.
- Under SB 439, students will have the opportunity for an employment position as an apprentice during their entire educational period.
- Additional opportunity to serve as an apprentice benefits both the student and funeral establishments.

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