



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 152

Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices

Position: Support
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: March 20, 2024
From: Hadley Anthony

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 152. The bill would explore the environmental and public health impacts of various burial and funeral practices.

House Bill would require MDE, in consultation with the Departments of Health and Labor, to conduct a study of the environmental and public health impacts of various types of deathcare and funeral practices, such as casket burial and cremation, in the State and report the findings to the Governor and General Assembly. The bill also allows for MDE to consult with subject matter experts, such as trade groups or organizations and academic institutions, to complete the study.

The study will provide valuable data and could help inform future decisions on the environmental and public health impacts of various deathcare and funeral practices. Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 152.