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**To: Senate Finance Committee**  
**From: John Dove, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing,  
Maryland Department of Labor**  
**Re: SB0224- Cemeteries - Burial-Transit Permits**

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**Introduction:**

Good afternoon, for the record my name is John Dove, Commissioner of the Office of Occupational and Professional Licensing, at the Maryland Department of Labor. I would like to thank Chair Beidle and all the Finance Committee Members for allowing me to introduce SB 224, entitled Cemeteries - Burial-Transit Permits, and explain why the passing of this Bill would benefit all Maryland Citizens.

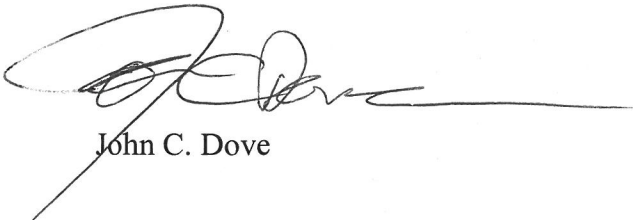
**Testimony:**

This bill would make it easier for family members to locate the final disposition of cremated loved ones. Currently, an ancestor's burial location is listed on the death certificate, typically identifying the cemetery the loved one is buried in. However, if the loved one was cremated, the final disposition listed on their death certificate is most likely the name of the crematory, which in most cases, is not where the remains are placed. This bill will add an explanation on all death certificates, listing final dispositions of cremated human remains by stating who received the remains and their relationship to the cremated person. This would provide family members the additional information necessary to assist them with locating a loved one's remains.

It is a small change, but an enormous help to a descendant having the heartbreaking experience of looking for an ancestor's final resting place. Passing SB 224 could prevent or ease some of that heartbreak and give these families peace.

Thank you for your time, and we ask this committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,



John C. Dove

cc: Sarah J. McDermott, Assistant Commissioner  
Deborah Rappazzo, Executive Director