



**The Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***HB 0152***

***Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Health and Government Operations  
**Date:** January 19, 2024  
**From:** Les Knapp

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

HB 152 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 the Department 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, urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 152.