

THOMAS S. HUTCHINSON
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 308
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3582 · 301-858-3582
800-492-7122 Ext. 3582
Tom.Hutchinson@house.state.md.us

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0756 General Provisions - State Flag - Casket of an Eligible Decedent

Health and Government Operations

February 13, 2024

What This Bill Does:

This bill requires the Secretary of State's Office to provide a State Flag to drape the casket of an eligible decedent, establish a process for the State Flag to be claimed after the burial, and requires the Secretary of State's Office procure a flag that is wholly produced in the United States.

Current law requires the Secretary of State to issue a State Flag to the family of a firefighter, policeman, member of the military, sworn member of the office of State Fire Marshal, or professional or volunteer emergency medical services provider who is killed in the line of duty. There is no law requiring a State Flag to be provided to the family of Eligible decedents.

Eligible decedents include an employee of the State or political subdivision who died as a result of 1) an accidental injury that arose out of and in the course of employment; or 2) an injury caused by the willful or negligent act of third person during the course of employment, current or former Members of the General Assembly, current or former Constitutional Officers (Lt. Gov, Comptroller, Treasurer, Sec of State, and Attorney General), current or former Judges, current or former Cabinet Secretaries, and other individuals whom the Governor designates via Executive Order. These are all individuals who served or will have served our State with great pride and dignity.

Why We Need This Bill:

When a high-profile judge in Washington County was slain due to a court verdict, the judge died due to his actions when on the job. We don't realize the risk many of our public servants make daily. This bill would afford them a specific honor to show our gratitude for their service and show unity for those who serve our state.

I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable vote on **HB756**.