
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF INFORMATION ON SB 963.

TO: House Health & Government Operations Committee
FROM: Deborah Rappazzo, Executive Director, Office of Cemetery Oversight
DATE: March 25, 2025
BILL: SB 963 - Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund - Establishment

Senate Bill 963 will create a fund to restore and maintain cemeteries that have fallen into disrepair. The Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO) which falls under the Department of Labor will be the entity responsible for overseeing the Fund to restore and maintain cemeteries that have deteriorated due to abandonment and neglect.

This bill authorizes the Governor to appropriate up to \$250,000 from the State Budget to support the Fund. The public will also be able to donate directly to the Fund, and also allow the Fund to seek grants and other opportunities to restore and maintain abandoned and neglected cemeteries. These donations will then be used to administer the Fund, which will pay for actions such as the care, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of abandoned and neglected cemeteries in the State of Maryland.

The Office of Cemetery Oversight is committed to fulfilling its regulatory authority to register and monitor Maryland sole proprietorships, individuals, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies operating cemeteries, as well as upholding ethical standards related to the operation of cemeteries. The Office of Cemetery is eager to be able to better preserve, maintain, and restore abandoned and neglected cemeteries.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**

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