
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF INFORMATION ON SB233

TO: Senate Finance
FROM: Deborah Rappazzo, Executive Director, Cemetery Oversight
DATE: 01/29/2026

Re: Letter of Information – SB 233 Business Regulation-Cemeteries-Actions for Sale, Transfer, or Alternate Use

The Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO), within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 233.

SB 233 would authorize certain persons to bring an action when the owner of property that includes a cemetery proposes the sale, transfer, or alternate use of all or part of the cemetery in a manner that does not conform with continued cemetery operations. The bill requires court review and authorizes the court to approve, prohibit, or order an alternative disposition of the cemetery.

The bill is intended to provide additional protections for cemetery properties by establishing a judicial process to review proposed sales, transfers, or alternate uses.

SB 233 provides for notice to, and involvement of, multiple categories of persons authorized to bring an action, including persons with burial rights, descendant community organizations, nonprofit organizations, governmental units, and a “person in interest” as defined in § 14–121 of the Real Property Article. However, while “person in interest” is defined elsewhere in statute, the bill does not define or use the term “interested party,” which may create ambiguity regarding who is entitled to notice under the bill.

The requirement for court approval may delay property transactions involving cemeteries and may increase legal costs for cemetery owners and prospective purchasers.

In circumstances where a cemetery owner lacks the resources to continue maintenance, the expense and duration of litigation may impede the transfer of ownership, potentially increasing the risk of neglect or abandonment.



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While OCO does play a role in the oversight of public cemeteries, OCO does not believe this proposed legislation would not directly impact OCO's operations or authority.

The Office of Cemetery Oversight respectfully submits this information for the Committee's consideration in its review of Senate Bill 233.

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