

## **Sale and Transfer of Cemeteries for alternate use**

SB 233 Testimony of Yvonne Fisher Senate Judicial Proceedings –

The Sale and Transfers of Cemeteries for alternative use must be highly scrutinized to assure the persons bringing the action in accordance with the Maryland Rules.

Actions may be taken by:

Some who owns a burial right, Descendant, Non-profit organization, or government entity. The Government entity must make timely and reasonable efforts to contact descendants.

It is imperative that the “person(s) in interest are”: related by blood, domestic partner, cultural affiliation with the person interred or has an interest in burial site that the States Attorney’s office for the jurisdiction where the burial site is located recognizes after consultation with a burial site advisory board or Maryland Historical Trust.

Descendents may bring action to the courts if the government entity does not act.

If no organization is identified to take over the cemetery, the government entity in that jurisdiction must maintain and preserve or facilitate reinterment of the remains.

It is without question that everyone who has chosen to be entered in a cemetery should be given same respect as someone still here on this earth.

We do not choose to die but we choose where we will be laid to rest. It is our responsibility to respect and preserve our final resting place.