

Maryland Military Coalition SB0042 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: David Lutzow

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 27, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0042 – State Veterans’ Cemeteries – Interment

Dear Chair Smith and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0042 Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill clarifies definitions for Registered Reduction Operator and Cremains or Hydrolyzed or Soil.

SB0042 follows changes and definitions from two previous Senate bills.

SB0443, introduced February 6, 2015, Changed Maryland code as listed in:

- Business Regulation 18 Section 5–101,
- Business Regulation Section 5–803
- Courts and Judicial Proceedings 7 Section
- Code of Maryland Health Occupations Section 7–101
- Occupations Section 7–406

SB0057 introduced January 8, 2025, Changed Maryland code as listed in:

- Business Regulation Section 5–803
- Health Occupations Section 7–406

Senators Simonaire’s bill compliments SB0443 and SB0057 by adding definitions for Registered Reduction Operator and Cremains or Hydrolyzed or Soil. All three bills are very clear, no person, organization, or company should be held liable when acting in good faith relating to the disposition of unclaimed remains of veterans.

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

Subject: Request FAVORABLE Report – SB0042 – Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0042** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David Lutzow

David Lutzow
Senior Master Sergeant (Ret), U.S. Air Force
Director

Subject: Request FAVORABLE Report – SB0042 – Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity

2026 SB 42 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 42 – Veteran Cremations Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 42.

This bill updates the provision of law to include the different types of disposals of human remains that were recently passed in Maryland as it pertains to unclaimed veteran's remains.

In 2015 former Senator Doug Peters sponsored legislation that helped give veterans who had unclaimed remains a proper burial and recognition, and I worked with him on this section of law over the years as well.

This was done by setting up a process to work with veteran nonprofits like *Missing in America Project* who help locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of military veterans.

The unclaimed cremains are then transferred to the veteran's organization where the original legislation also provided a liability exempt for the transferring and receiving of these remains.

Recently, Maryland updated its burial laws to allow in addition to cremains, the use of hydrolyzed remains, and soil remains.

This bill simply updates the laws dealing with unclaimed veterans' remains that are transferred and received by including unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains of veterans language.

That's the bill.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

DVMF SB42 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 42 - Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations -
Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity
SUPPORT**

January 29, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. DVMF's Cemetery and Memorial Program offers our honored veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place at one of five state veterans cemeteries located throughout Maryland. Our department supports Senate Bill 42 - Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity.

This technical bill simply updates statutory language to include other businesses besides licensed funeral homes that engage in the crematory business. SB42 also replaces out-dated language with more accurate and modern terminology.

DVMF supports the General Assembly's continued effort to expand eligibility, align with federal language, and modernize the veteran and military-connected definitions across the Code. This bill has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary

SB0042_VeteransCaucus_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Veterans Caucus Maryland

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

January 29, 2026

Delegate Senator William C. Smith Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB42 :Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations – Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains
– Immunity

Dear Chairman Smith,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans
Caucus for Senate Bill 42.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Veterans Caucus believes that the
above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of
Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks

Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Rogers".

Delegate Mike Rogers

House Chair