

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 509 (Senator Astle)
Finance

**Morticians - Pre-need Contracts and Final Disposition of Human Remains -
Regulation**

This bill authorizes licensed morticians or funeral directors to execute pre-need contracts. Individuals 18 years of age or older are allowed to decide the disposition of their own bodies via pre-need contracts or specified documents without pre- or post-death consent of another person.

When there is no contract or document, the bill delineates: (1) a priority order of survivors to be responsible for final disposition and any attendant costs; (2) under what circumstances the State or any of its instrumentalities may assume disposition authority; and (3) when an institution to which the body has been donated may make final arrangements.

In addition, the bill requires licensees (1) to provide identification tags for bodies prior to burial or internment; and (2) to place identifications tags in cremains containers.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The authorizations and delineations of responsibilities provided by this bill would not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: None. The bill does not substantively change local activities or operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Morticians),
Office of the Secretary of State, Department of Fiscal Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 1996

ncs

Analysis by: Guy Cherry

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710