

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 795

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and V. Turner” and substitute “V. Turner, and Hurson”; strike in their entirety lines 2 and 3 and substitute “Task Force to Study Funeral Establishment Licensing”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 4 down through “companies.” in line 22 and substitute “establishing the Task Force to Study Funeral Establishment Licensing; providing for the composition, staffing, and compensation of the members of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to review and assess certain items related to the licensing of funeral establishments; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Funeral Establishment Licensing.”; strike in their entirety lines 23 through 27, inclusive; and in line 29, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 29, insert:

“(a) There is a Task Force to Study Funeral Establishment Licensing.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) two Senators who are members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) two Delegates who are members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(3) the following nine members appointed by the Governor:

(Over)

- Association;

 - (i) one representative of the Maryland State Funeral Directors
 - (ii) one representative of the Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of Maryland;
 - (iii) one representative of the Maryland Free State Cemetery and Funeral Association;
 - (iv) one representative of the State Board of Morticians;
 - (v) one representative of corporate-owned funeral establishments;
 - (vi) one representative of the cemetery industry;
 - (vii) one attorney with expertise in corporate and business law;
 - (viii) one business owner; and
 - (ix) one member of the general public.
- (c) The Governor shall designate the chairman of the Task Force.
- (d) The Department of Legislative Services and the Attorney General's Office from the Anti-trust Division shall provide staff for the Task Force.
- (e) A member of the Task Force:
 - (1) may not receive compensation; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- (f) The Task Force shall:

- State;
- (1) review and develop options for the licensing of funeral establishments in the
 - (2) assess the forms of ownership of funeral home licenses, including:
 - (i) corporations;
 - (ii) professional associations;
 - (iii) partnerships; and
 - (iv) sole proprietorships;
 - (3) assess the forms of licensing funeral professionals in other states;
 - (4) assess whether ownership of a funeral home by a limited liability corporation provides adequate safeguards to protect Maryland consumers;
 - (5) determine whether the injunctive power of the State Board of Morticians should be strengthened;
 - (6) review the current composition of the State Board of Morticians, including the ratio of practitioners to consumer members; and
 - (7) propose legislative, regulatory, and other changes required to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.
- (g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 2004.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 1 on page 2 through

(Over)

line 29 on page 3, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 3, in line 31, strike “October” and substitute “July”; and in the same line, after “2004.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.