

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 784
Finance

(Senator Hayes)

**State Anatomy Board - Claimed Cremated Remains - Provision Without
Payment of Costs**

This bill requires the State Anatomy Board to provide the cremains of a decedent who is cremated through the State cremation process, in a suitable container, to the decedent's relative without requiring the relative to pay any costs if (1) the cremains have not been buried at the State burial grounds and (2) the relative can show hardship.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Since the bill generally codifies current regulations and practice, there is no material fiscal or operational impact on the State Anatomy Board.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, the Maryland Department of Health's State Anatomy Board is notified if there is an unclaimed body in the State. For unclaimed bodies, after 72 hours after death, the body is under the exclusive control of the State Anatomy Board and may be embalmed or cremated. Any relative or friend may claim the body or cremains after embalming or cremation and, after paying the board for the costs of moving and embalming/cremating the body, may receive it. Per the Code of Maryland Regulations, the board may, at its discretion, waive any payment upon a showing of economic hardship by the relative or friend.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

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rh/jc

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