

HOUSE BILL 152

M3, J1, J2
HB 869/23 – HGO

(PRE-FILED)

4lr0811

By: **Delegates Boyce, Hill, Martinez, Nawrocki, Pena-Melnyk, and Szeliga**

Requested: October 3, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of the Environment – Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the
4 Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor, to conduct
5 a study of the environmental and public health impacts of deathcare and funeral
6 practices in the State; and generally relating to a study of deathcare and funeral
7 practices.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland
11 Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor, shall conduct a study of the
12 impacts of deathcare and funeral practices on the environment and public health of the
13 State.

14 (b) The study shall examine the environmental and public health impacts of the
15 following deathcare and funeral practices:

16 (1) casket and vault burial;

17 (2) mausoleum burial;

18 (3) casket only burial;

19 (4) natural or green burial;

20 (5) cremation;

21 (6) alkaline hydrolysis or water cremation;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) resomation or natural water cremation; and

2 (8) natural organic reduction.

3 (c) The Department of the Environment may consult trade groups or
4 organizations and academic institutions to complete the study.

5 (d) On or before October 1, 2025, the Department of the Environment shall report
6 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
7 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2024.