

# HOUSE BILL 677

D1, C2, J2

6lr2081  
CF SB 42

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By: **Delegates Nkongolo, Arentz, Griffith, Odom, Rogers, Schmidt, and Simmons**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Health

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations – Hydrolyzed and Soil**  
3 **Remains – Immunity**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a registered reduction operator is not civilly liable for  
5 transferring and a veterans service organization is not civilly liable for receiving  
6 unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a  
7 veteran for the purposes of disposition if acting in good faith; and generally relating  
8 to reduction facilities, veterans service organizations, and the disposition of  
9 unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Business Regulation  
12 Section 5–101(a), (q), and (z)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
17 Section 5–642  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – Business Regulation**

2 5–101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (q) “Natural organic reduction” means the contained accelerated conversion of  
5 human remains into soil.

6 (z) “Registered reduction operator” means an individual registered to operate a  
7 reduction facility as a sole proprietor or on behalf of a sole proprietor or a permit holder.

8 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

9 5–642.

10 (a) In this section, “veteran” has the meaning stated in § 9–901 of the State  
11 Government Article.

12 (b) A licensed funeral establishment, **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, or  
13 holder of a permit to engage in the business of a crematory who acts in good faith is not  
14 civilly liable for transferring the unclaimed [cremated] **CREMAINS OR HYDROLYZED OR**  
15 **SOIL** remains of a veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran to a veterans service  
16 organization for purposes of disposition as provided in § 5–803 of the Business Regulation  
17 Article and § 7–406 of the Health Occupations Article.

18 (c) A veterans service organization that acts in good faith is not civilly liable for  
19 receiving the unclaimed [cremated] **CREMAINS OR HYDROLYZED OR SOIL** remains of a  
20 veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran for purposes of disposition as provided in §  
21 5–803 of the Business Regulation Article and § 7–406 of the Health Occupations Article.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.