

HOUSE BILL 1402

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6lr3332

By: **Delegates Stinnett, Acevero, Addison, Coley, Lehman, Ruff, Wolek, and Young**
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026
Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Medical Examiner – Release of Body – Requirements for Muslims**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a medical examiner in receipt of notice that a deceased
4 individual was Muslim, to release the body within a certain period of time after the
5 completion of the autopsy; and generally relating to the release of bodies of deceased
6 Muslims by medical examiners.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Health – General

9 Section 5–312

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 **5–312.**

16 **(A) ON RECEIPT OF NOTICE THAT A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL WAS MUSLIM, A**
17 **MEDICAL EXAMINER SHALL RELEASE THE BODY OF THE DECEASED INDIVIDUAL**
18 **WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE AUTOPSY.**

19 **(B) A MEDICAL EXAMINER IS DEEMED TO HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE THAT A**
20 **DECEASED INDIVIDUAL WAS MUSLIM IF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER IS PROVIDED**
21 **WITH:**

22 **(1) THE WILL OF THE DECEASED;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 **(2) A DOCUMENT EXECUTED UNDER § 5-509 OF THIS TITLE;**
- 2 **(3) NOTICE FROM THE DECEASED’S NEXT OF KIN;**
- 3 **(4) CONFIRMATION FROM AN IMAM OR A MOSQUE TO WHICH THE**
4 **DECEASED WAS KNOWN; OR**
- 5 **(5) INFORMATION REGARDING PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED FUNERAL**
6 **ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO OVERSEE AND CARRY OUT**
7 **THE BURIAL RITES OF A DECEASED MUSLIM.**

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