

# SENATE BILL 42

D1, C2, J2

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0612  
CF HB 677

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By: **Senator Simonaire**

Requested: June 2, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Reassigned: Judicial Proceedings, January 16, 2026

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 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)

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

3 **Article – Business Regulation**

4 5–101.

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

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

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

10 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

11 5–642.

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

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

20 (c) A veterans service organization that acts in good faith is not civilly liable for  
21 receiving the unclaimed [cremated] **CREMAINS OR HYDROLYZED OR SOIL** remains of a  
22 veteran or an eligible dependent of a veteran for purposes of disposition as provided in §  
23 5–803 of the Business Regulation Article and § 7–406 of the Health Occupations Article.

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