

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 510  
Finance

(Senator West)

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**State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors - Funeral Direction Licensure  
and Apprentices - Requirements**

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This bill alters certain education and examination requirements to obtain a funeral director license from the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors. For an individual applying for a license to practice funeral direction, the practical examination qualification may not include demonstrating competency in the preparation of dead human bodies for final disposition and sanitary science. The bill also specifies certain education requirements for the approval of an apprentice license.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary/Current Law:**

*Mortician or Funeral Director License*

Under current law, the board must issue a mortician or funeral director license to an applicant who (1) is of good moral character; (2) has completed no less than one year and no more than two years of licensed apprenticeship, unless the board has allowed an extension; (3) has met specified education requirements; (4) passed necessary examinations; and (5) has submitted an application on board-required forms and paid the

required fee. An applicant for a license to practice as a funeral director must pass the arts and sciences State board examinations administered by the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States. An individual applying for a funeral director license may not be required to demonstrate competency in embalming.

The bill clarifies the education and examination requirements for an applicant for a license to practice as a funeral director. The board must issue a funeral director license to an individual that has (1) graduated with an associate of arts degree in mortuary science or its equivalent from a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABSFE), or acquired at least an associate of arts degree and completed a course in mortuary science accredited by ABSFE; and (2) passed the *national board examination* administered by the Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States.

An associate of arts degree in mortuary science completed by an applicant for a license to practice as a funeral director must include a minimum of 60 credit hours or the equivalent of credit hours in courses relevant to the practice of a funeral director. A minimum of 30 of the required credit hours must be in a program approved by the board.

#### *Apprenticeship License*

Under current law, one of the requirements for licensure as a mortician or funeral director is the successful completion of an apprenticeship. An applicant for an apprentice license (and a licensed apprentice applying for renewal) must submit a letter from the director of the mortuary science program in which the applicant is enrolled. An applicant must have an apprentice sponsor. The sponsor must be (1) a licensed mortician or funeral director whose license is in good standing with the board and (2) employed by the same funeral establishment that employs the apprentice. An applicant must appear before the board with the applicant's sponsor.

The bill clarifies that, before an individual appears before the board for approval of an apprentice license:

- *to assist a licensed mortician in the practice of mortuary science*, the individual must be enrolled in or have graduated from a mortuary science program at a school accredited by ABSFE or approved by the board, with a 2.0 grade point average or higher that is verified with a certified copy of the college transcript, if the individual has a grade point average; or
- *to assist a licensed funeral director in the practice of funeral direction*, the individual must be enrolled in or have graduated from a mortuary science program at a school accredited by ABSFE or approved by the board.

## **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 13, 2026  
jg/jc

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