

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 46
Finance

(Senator Simonaire)

State Veterans' Cemeteries - Interment

This bill defines “interment” and “interment location” for purposes of the interment of individuals in State veterans’ cemeteries. With each interment location, the Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) must provide an *outer burial receptacle or columbarium niche and marker* (rather than a grave liner) at no cost for the veteran or the veteran’s eligible spouse or dependent. The bill also makes conforming changes in the Business Regulation, Health Occupations, and State Government articles. The terms “burial,” “buried,” “bury,” “graves,” and “a plot” are replaced with “interment,” “interred,” “inter,” “interment locations,” and “an interment location,” respectively.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary/Current Law: For purposes of the State Government Article (which governs veterans’ cemeteries), the bill defines “interment” to mean all final disposition of human remains, including (1) earth burial and (2) niche or columbarium. “Interment location” means a grave plot or niche in a columbarium.

Under current law, the definition of “interment” under the Business Regulation Article means all final disposition of human or pet remains, including (1) earth burial; (2) mausoleum entombment; and (3) niche or columbarium *interment*. The word “interment” is changed to “inurnment” under the bill.

The bill also defines “interment” under the Health Occupations Article to reflect the Business Regulation Article definition.

Under current law, to qualify for a plot in a State veterans’ cemetery, an applicant must be a veteran who meets the requirements for burial at a national veterans’ cemetery or an eligible spouse or dependent of a veteran who meets specified requirements. In addition, if the applicant is a veteran, the veteran must have been a resident of the State when the veteran entered the U.S. Armed Forces; when the veteran died; or for two years, unless DVMF waives the time period. DVMF must provide a plot and a grave liner at no cost to the veteran, eligible spouse, or dependent. In addition, DVMF must bury the veteran, eligible spouse, or dependent without charge.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: HB 364 (Delegate Kipke) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

Information Source(s): Office of the Attorney General; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Veterans and Military Families; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/jc

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