



SB 84

Funeral Establishments and Crematories-Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans

MARYLAND STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Position of MD State Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA): **Support with amendments**

This bill provides for the disposition of unclaimed cremains of a veteran, after 90 days, in order to determine whether the veteran or dependent is eligible for burial in a veteran's cemetery. It provides that if a veterans' service organization will not take cremains that are eligible for such burial, the funeral establishment or crematory will notify the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transfer the remains to the Department for disposition.

MSFDA supports this proposal, with an amendment that the sponsor, Senator Simonaire, has agreed to. MSFDA believes that it is important and appropriate that eligible veterans be provided with a dignified burial in a veteran's cemetery where the cremains have gone unclaimed for a substantial time, 90 days. This bill will provide for that dignified treatment.

As to the amendment, that will eliminate a reporting requirement that would be burdensome and unnecessary for establishments and crematories.

MSFDA supports this bill as amended.

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