



SB 439

Health Occupations-Morticians and Funeral Directors-Apprenticeships

Position of MD State Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA): SUPPORT

WHAT THE CURRENT LAW IS:

- Current law requires an individual to serve an apprenticeship with a funeral establishment, where he or she will participate in at least 20 funerals, assist in the preparation and embalming of at least 20 bodies, and complete 1000 hours working in the funeral establishment. All of this must be done under the direct supervision of a licensed mortician.
- Current law requires that a person may not serve as an apprentice until completing 2/3ds of the academic credits in a mortuary science program at an accredited school.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- SB 439 eliminates the requirement that a person first complete 2/3ds of the educational requirements before becoming an apprentice.
- SB 439 permits an individual to become an apprentice as long as the person is enrolled in or has graduated from a mortuary science program.
- The Bill also allows an apprentice to work more than 1000-hours as an apprentice, if desired.

WHY SB 439 SHOULD BE PASSED:

- SB 439 will open up employment opportunities for students to be apprentices as soon as they enter and enroll in mortuary science school. It repeals the restriction contained in current law that prohibits employment as an apprentice until a student has completed most of his educational requirements.
- In allowing for earlier experience as an apprentice in a funeral home, a student can also decide much earlier whether he wants to continue in funeral direction, rather than not having any practical experience in the field until he has completed most of his schooling.
- Under SB 439, students will have the opportunity for an employment position as an apprentice during their entire educational period.
- Additional opportunity to serve as an apprentice benefits both the student and funeral establishments.

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