

8 - SB 180 - Funeral Establishments and Crematorie

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Position: FAV



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

**Maryland Board of Morticians and
Funeral Directors**
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Phone: 410-764-4792

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Senator Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 180 – Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans
Notification, Disposition, and Reporting – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of Support for SB 180 – Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans Notification, Disposition, and Reporting.

The Board supports the current language in SB 180, noting the importance of the duties and responsibilities to the veteran service members. The Board has oversight of licensed funeral establishments and certain permit holders related to mortuary science. As a result, the Board is entrusted with the duty of ensuring that the licensed funeral establishments and certain permit holders are properly carrying out their duties of unclaimed cremains--and in this case, cremated remains of veteran service members. SB 180 establishes proper tracking of cremated remains to ensure final disposition for our veterans by giving them a proper and dignified burial. Therefore, the Board unanimously supports SB 180, and would equally support a cross filed House Bill.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Christy Collins, Executive Director at (410) 764-4714 or christy.collins@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark Bailey

Dr. Mark E. Bailey, CT, CFSP
President, Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

sb180-msfda.pdf

Uploaded by: Doyle, James

Position: FAV



Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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SB 180

Funeral establishments and Crematories-Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans-Notification, Disposition, and Reporting

MD State Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA)

SUPPORT-FAVORABLE

This bill adds to current law regarding the notification and disposition of cremains that have gone unclaimed for 90 days or more. Currently, for such unclaimed cremains, a funeral establishment notifies a veteran's service organization to determine if the cremains are those of a veteran or eligible dependent. If they are, the funeral establishment may transfer those remains to the service organization for disposition.

This bill would add a provision, stating that if the veterans service organization does not take possession of the cremains of a veteran, for burial in a veteran's cemetery, the funeral establishment shall notify the Department of Veterans Affairs and transfer the cremains to the Department for disposition.

MSFDA supports this proposal.

Contact:

Jim Doyle

Jimdoyle3@comcast.net

443-676-2940

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Uploaded by: Guibao, Patrick

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF SENATE BILL 180

Senator Pinsky, Chair, Senator Kagan and distinguished members of the Education health and environment committee,

The Maryland Military Coalition represents 16 military and veteran service organization who served nearly 150,000 men and women who serve or have served our nation in times of crises and peace.

All Maryland residents deserve proper interment and this is especially true for our veteran community who during their lifetime sacrificed greatly so that we can live a life of dignity and freedom. Also, we fervently believe their spouses should be accorded the identical burial rights as well.

The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs which among their many duties to veterans manage five cemeteries throughout Maryland is ideally positioned to meet the needs of these unclaimed cremains in a proper, honorable and dignified manner.

We ask the Educational, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee to render a favorable report on Senate Bill 180 and we commend Senator Simonaire for his zealous compassion to this most essential task as well as his continual support to the active military and its veterans.

Yours, Respectfully

Patrick J. Guibao
Vice President and Legislative Director
Maryland Military Coalition

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Senator Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Leber, Verna

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

MINORITY LEADER

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Alcohol

Health

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 26, 2021

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 180

Madam Chair and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 180 – *Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans – Notification, Disposition, and Reporting*.

Senate Bill 180 would require a licensed funeral establishment and an owner of a crematory business in possession of the unclaimed cremains of a veteran to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of the appropriate disposition of cremains.

SB180 letter of support - 2021.pdf

Uploaded by: Owings, George

Position: FAV



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. OWINGS III
SECRETARY

January 20, 2021

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health and Environmental
Committee Members, Education, Health & Environment
2 West. Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 180, Funeral Establishments and Crematorie - Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans –
Notification, Disposition and Reporting

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members,

Please be advised that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs supports SB 180, Funeral Establishments and Crematorie - Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans – Notification, Disposition and Reporting. It is already a requirement from the federal VA pursuant to the National Cemetery Administration in exchange for certain funding we receive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO", followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

George W. Owings III
Secretary

GWO:kss