



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 869***

***Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Finance  
**Date:** March 23, 2023  
**From:** Gabrielle Leach

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 869 as amended. House Bill 869 would require MDE, in consultation with the Departments of Health and Labor, to conduct a study of the environmental and public health impacts of various types of deathcare and funeral practices, such as casket burial and cremation, in the State and report the findings to the Governor and General Assembly. Additionally, the bill allows for the Department to consult with subject matter experts, such as trade groups or organizations and academic institutions, to complete the study.

MDE has worked with the House sponsor on the legislation and appreciates the consideration of our amendment to the bill.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for House Bill 869.