

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING Office of Cemetery Oversight

1100 N. Eutaw Street, 5th Floor Baltimore, MD 21201

House Bill 1060

Date: March 8, 2022

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Bill title: Cremations – Natural Organic Reduction - Regulation

Re: Letter of Information

House Bill 1060 introduces a new type of cremation method in addition to the process of reducing human remains to bone fragments through intense heat and evaporation. This new type of cremation method is the process of reducing human remains at a controlled accelerated conversion to soil called "Natural Organic Reduction".

As amended, House Bill 1060 will require a facility performing cremation by the method of Natural Organic Reduction to be regulated and hold a permit with either the Office of Cemetery Oversight and/or the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors. To determine which agency will issue the permit is depending on the facility's ownership. It will also require crematory operators to obtain specific registration or operating requirements necessary to perform this type of cremation. The alternative methods of registration will be helpful for both industries as well as potential registrants.

Based on the amendments provided to the Department of Labor, the Department is confident that the changes incorporated by House Bill 1060 can be managed with existing resources.

The Department thanks the stakeholders involved for their collaborative approach that has helped to ensure that House Bill 1060 will have little to no fiscal impact.