

I respectfully urge you to pass HB0969: the Katherine Morris Death Reclassification Act, accepting all amendments.

I know one of the family members associated with the tragic case of Katherine Morris, as well as other family members connected to similar cases. It's been devastating for the families going through the process of getting a correction on the manner of death to undetermined.

In the case of Katherine Morris, once the manner of death had been corrected, the barriers placed before the family members to consider next steps have been onerous and seemingly insurmountable, and sometimes inexplicable given the reclassification of the death to undetermined.

This bill would at least provide an explanation to the family for any reasons that the state might not pursue an investigation into the deceased person's death. It would also allow for the deceased person's family to be sent the death certificate at no cost.

I believe that the sponsor of this bill, Delegate Bartlett has listened to the families and has their interests at heart. I have full confidence that passage of this bill would help to ease the families' journeys as they go through this difficult process.