
**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF INFORMATION ON
HB1354.**

TO: Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations
Committees
FROM: Deborah Rappazzo, Executive Director, Cemetery Oversight
DATE: March 5, 2025
BILL: HB 1354 Business Regulations-Cemeteries-Requirements for Sale
or Transfer or Government Acquisitions

House Bill 1354 prohibits certain owners of a cemetery from selling or transferring the cemetery without the approval of the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight (“Office”). In addition, it allows governmental entities, descendent community organizations, and or nonprofit organizations to take ownership of Abandoned Cemeteries. Furthermore, if a governmental entity has acquired an Abandoned Cemetery and is unable to transfer ownership, the Office may facilitate the reinterment of any human remains or pet remains from the cemetery to an operational cemetery.

The Office is a small special funded unit and, when fully staffed, consists of a total of 4 employees (three full-time and one part-time). Therefore, due to the Office’s current staffing structure, additional staff (one full-time clerical person and one full-time investigator) will be required to handle the additional duties to implement House Bill 1354. In addition, because the Office is a special funded unit, the Office’s budget is unable to absorb the additional expenditures this bill requires without a funding mechanism in place to support additional staff and legal expenses.

For questions, please contact Caroline Bauk, at Caroline.Bauk@maryland.gov.