



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 5, 2025

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill: HB 1354 - Business Regulation - Cemeteries - Requirements for Sale or Transfer or Government Acquisition

Position: Favorable

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports House Bill 1354, which grants municipal governments the authority to acquire abandoned cemeteries for the purpose of transferring the property to certain third-party entities. This situation has arisen several times and without the authority granted in this bill, the municipal government was unable to provide assistance.

Due to any number of reasons, cemeteries fall into various states of disrepair thus leaving an unfortunate situation for those laid to rest there as well as blight in the community. There have been several instances where a municipal government was seeking to assist a community non-profit entity to restore an abandoned cemetery but lacked the authority to procure the property and then transfer ownership to the community partner. The provisions of HB 1354 would allow for such a procurement and transfer to occur, thus assisting all parties involved.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1354. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at billj@mdmunicipal.org. Thank you in advance for your consideration.