



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report-SB0057** – Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities – Disposition of Unclaimed Remains – Veterans

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) recommends a **FAVORABLE** report by the Committee on SB0057 – Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities – Disposition of Unclaimed Remains – Veterans, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. Article, Business Regulation § 5-803, dated October 1, 2024, provides very basic requirements for the remains disposition of unclaimed veterans, but lacks much-needed accountability. SB0057 expands the accountability between the reduction facility and the VSO and establishes an additional level of accountability for the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families.

The proper and dignified disposition of veterans' remains is one of our greatest responsibilities. The knowledge that veterans can go unclaimed is unconscionable. Additional accountability for our unclaimed veterans is long overdue.

The MMC **strongly supports SB0057** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and for supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

*David Lutzow*

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Director, Maryland Military Coalition

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