

2025 SB0057 Testimony For 2025-02-06.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

SB0057 – Favorable

Honorable Senators

I support requiring a licensed funeral establishment, crematory operator, or reduction facility to take certain actions if a certain veterans service organization does not take possession of certain unclaimed cremains, hydrolyzed remains, or soil remains that qualify for a plot in a veterans cemetery within a certain period of time.

Please enter a favorable report for SB0057.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
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Alanlang1@verizon.net

Legislative District 30B
February 6, 2025

VeteransCaucusLegislationSupportLetter_SB57.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

February 4, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy & the Environment Committee
2W Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB57, Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities – Disposition of
Unclaimed Remains – Veterans
Hearing Date: February 6, 2025

Dear Chairman Feldman,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Senate Veterans Caucus for Senate Bill 57.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Senate Veterans Caucus believes that the above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks
Senate Chair

cc: Senator Bryan Simonaire

Maryland Military Coalition SB0057 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: David Lutzow

Position: FAV



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

David Lutzow, USAF, SMSgt (Retired)
Director, Maryland Military Coalition

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SB 57 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 57

Chairman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 57 - *Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Disposition of Unclaimed Remains – Veterans*.

SB 57 would require a licensed funeral establishment, crematory operator, or reduction facility to take certain actions if a certain veterans service organization does not take possession of certain unclaimed cremains, hydrolyzed remains, or soil remains that qualify for a plot in a veterans cemetery within a certain period of time.

DVMF SB57 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ANTHONY C. WOODS
SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 57 - Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Disposition of
Unclaimed Remains - Veterans
SUPPORT**

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Room 241, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for the military-connected communities. DVMF fulfills its mission through five core programs: the Service and Benefits Program, which helps veterans access federal, state, and local earned benefits; Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, offering assisted living and skilled nursing care; the Cemetery and Memorial Program, providing dignified resting places and maintaining memorials honoring Maryland's veterans; the Communications, Outreach, and Advocacy Program, fostering connection and awareness; and the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund, offering financial assistance to veterans and their families in need. These programs reflect Maryland's commitment to honoring and empowering its military-connected community.

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families supports Senate Bill 57-Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Disposition of Unclaimed Remains - Veterans.

The Department believes that Senate Bill 57 establishes a better structured and respectful process for the disposition of unclaimed remains of veterans and their eligible dependents. This legislation underscores Maryland's unwavering commitment to ensuring that no veteran is forgotten, even in death.

Far too often, the remains of veterans go unclaimed due to a variety of circumstances, including lack of immediate family, financial hardship, or bureaucratic barriers. Senate Bill 57 directly addresses this issue by ensuring that the cremated, hydrolyzed, or soil remains of veterans who qualify for burial in a state veterans cemetery receive a dignified final resting place. By requiring funeral establishments, crematories, and reduction facilities to notify and transfer unclaimed remains to a veterans service organization or DVMF, this bill strengthens Maryland's dedication to honoring those who served our country.

THE WINELAND BUILDING, FOURTH FLOOR
16 FRANCIS STREET, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TOLL FREE: 866-793-1577 • ANNAPOLIS: 410-260-3838 • FAX: 410-216-7928

veterans.maryland.gov
TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Key Benefits to the Military-Connected Community:

1. **Ensuring Dignified Burial for Veterans** – This legislation guarantees that veterans who dedicated their lives to service are provided with a proper burial in a state veterans cemetery, preserving their honor and legacy.
2. **Supporting Military Families** – The bill also acknowledges the sacrifice of military families by including eligible dependents in the process, ensuring they receive the same dignified treatment as their veteran loved ones.
3. **Reducing Bureaucratic Barriers** – By streamlining the process for funeral establishments and crematories to transfer unclaimed remains to DVMF, this bill minimizes delays and ensures timely, respectful handling of veterans' remains.
4. **Strengthening State and Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Partnerships** – This bill enhances collaboration between Maryland's veteran organizations, funeral establishments, and state agencies to ensure no veteran is left behind, reinforcing our collective responsibility to care for those who served.
5. **Demonstrating Maryland's Leadership in Veteran Affairs** – Passage of SB 57 would further establish Maryland as a national leader in supporting and honoring military veterans and their families.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal and I ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony Woods".

Anthony C. Woods
Secretary

MSFDA Inc Position on Senate Bill 57 (2025).pdf

Uploaded by: Walter Nathan Malloy Jr.

Position: FAV



Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

519 Mabe Drive, Woodbine, MD 21797

Phone: 410-553-7706

Email: msfda@msfda.net ▪ Web Site: www.msfda.net

Senate Bill 0057 (2025)

Position of the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc.: FAVORABLE

- Senate Bill 0057 (2025) will expand the duty of funeral establishments, crematory operators, and reduction facilities to take the same actions regarding hydrolyzed remains or soil remains that qualify for a plot in a Veteran's Cemetery within a certain period of time that funeral establishments and crematory operators are currently obligated to perform regarding unclaimed cremains of veterans pursuant to Health Occupations, section 7-406(b)(2)(i).
- Senate Bill 0057 (2025) will not impose an increased burden on funeral homes and crematory operators above and beyond that which is currently required pursuant to Health Occupations, section 7-406(b)(2)(i).
- Senate Bill 0057 (2025) ensures that newly permitted reduction facilities as defined by the Maryland Code have the same obligations and duties with hydrolyzed remains or soil remains of veterans as funeral establishments and crematory operators have regarding unclaimed cremains of veterans.

For the reasons stated herein, the MSFDA, Inc. supports Senate Bill 0057 (2025).