



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

Maryland Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Senate Miller Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1555 - Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Oversight (Ensuring Dignity and Accountability in Crematory and Funeral Home Operations Act) – Support with amendments

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) respectfully submits this letter in support of HB 1555, with amendments. While the Board fully supports transparency and accountability, certain provisions in the Bill require clarification to ensure they do not create unintended consequences. HB 1555 requires the Board to publish “information regarding each disciplinary action taken by the Board” (H.O. §7-209). However, the Board already fulfills this obligation by publishing final disciplinary actions on its website under H.O. §1-607. Additionally, COMAR 10.29.11.06(B) designates Letters of Education and Letters of Admonishment as confidential. The Bill does not specify whether these measures would remain non-public, thereby creating ambiguity. If the intent is to publish only final disciplinary actions (Consent Orders, Final Orders, or Letters of Surrender), this provision is redundant. Currently, the Board follows an established complaint-handling process under COMAR, which protects the confidentiality of certain disciplinary actions. HB 1555, as introduced, could unintentionally override these protections.

The Board recommends amending the Bill to explicitly clarify its scope. HB 1555 (H.O. §7-209) mandates publishing funeral establishment inspections. However, it is unclear whether this requires only a database of inspection dates or the full inspection reports. The Board recommends clarifying this provision to specify what information will be made public and when. HB 1555 proposes appointing a “liaison” to assist the prosecutor in preparing charges and grants the Executive Director authority to direct the liaison in cases of imminent threats to human safety.

The Board supports HB 1555, as it balances transparency, public protection, and fairness to the

profession. Therefore, the Board respectfully requests a favorable vote on HB 1555 with the amendments in this letter.

For further discussion, please contact me at (410) 764-4714 or erika.malone1@maryland.gov, or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Malone", written in a cursive style.

Erika Malone
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.