

Senate Bill 957 – Morticians and Funeral Directors – Not-For-Profit Funeral Establishments

Position: Unfavorable

Service Corporation International (SCI) is proud to be North America's leading provider of funeral, cremation and cemetery services. Since 1962, SCI has been serving families during their most difficult, personal and challenging times. SCI has 17 funeral homes, 14 cemeteries and 2 crematories in Maryland. SCI opposes SB 957 which will permit nonprofit owners of funeral establishments.

Recently, Maryland experienced what happens when under resourced funeral establishments run a funeral business. The recent closure of Heaven Bound Cremation Services in Charles County demonstrates why providing the lowest cost service to families is not the end goal of our business.

Providing funeral services is not like running a typical business. Our licenses are in the Health Occupations Article because our service providers, like other health service providers, are caring for human bodies. Our businesses are much more centered around the treatment of human bodies and should have experienced and qualified owners, with the best training, capital, and resources to take care of family's loved ones.

SCI believes current Maryland law provides the highest level of care to Maryland families and that SB 957 risks lowering Maryland standards of care. For that reason, we request an unfavorable report.

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