



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

## TESTIMONY

March 11, 2025

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill:** SB 1021 - Business Regulation - Cemeteries - Requirements for Sale or Transfer or Government Acquisition

**Position:** Favorable

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) supports Senate Bill 1021, 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 SB 1021 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 Senate Bill 1021. For more information, please contact Bill Jorch, Director, Public Policy and Research at [billj@mdmunicipal.org](mailto:billj@mdmunicipal.org). Thank you in advance for your consideration.