

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Finance Committee

My name is Daniel J. Phelan, and I reside in Baltimore County, Maryland. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Baltimore County Genealogical Society, and a retired hydrologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division.

I am writing you to ask that you help support Senate Bill 671, Office of Cemetery Oversight—Study of Deathcare and Funeral Practices which will allow for the creation of a study of the environmental and public health impacts of deathcare and funeral practices in the State; and generally relating to a study of deathcare and funeral practices.

Given the evolving business of funeral practices, it would be best to understand the environmental impacts of these practices and to determine the needs of permitting these businesses to insure environmentally-acceptable procedures. It would also be best that records be kept so that future generations Marylanders can find or determine the final resting places of their ancestors.

Thank you for your time and considering my input.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Phelan