



Maryland State Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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Senate Bill 671 (2025)

Office of Cemetery Oversight – Study of Deathcare and Funeral Practices

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

- Senate Bill 671 (2025) directs the “Office of Cemetery Oversight, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the Department of the environment to conduct a comprehensive study of the impacts of deathcare and funeral practices on the environment and public health of the State.” (proposed language of Senate Bill 671 (2025))
- Since 1919 The Maryland State Funeral Directors Association Inc. has been dedicated to professionalism, integrity, and the highest ethical standards in funeral service in Maryland. Our membership is comprised of funeral service professionals who have committed their lives to serving the needs of the families of Maryland at the time of death of a loved one.
- Section(e)(3) of Senate Bill 671 (2025) identifies specific trade groups and organizations from whom the Office of Cemetery Oversight shall solicit input from like the Funeral Consumer Alliance, Green Burial Council, and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, yet fails to specifically identify the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association Inc. The Maryland State Funeral Directors Association Inc. is a tremendous resource for knowledge and information regarding funeral practices, customs, and ethics in Maryland.
- The Maryland State Funeral Directors Association Inc. respectfully requests that Senate Bill 671 Section (e)(3) (page 3, lines 19 – 25) be amended to specifically include the Maryland State Funeral Directors Association Inc. as one of the “trade groups and organizations” from whom the Office of Cemetery Oversight shall solicit input regarding the Study of Deathcare and Funeral Practices in Maryland.