



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
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**HB 0509**

February 18, 2025

**TO:** Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 0509 – Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup  
– Establishment

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Peña-Melnick, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 0509.

This bill will establish a State-level workgroup that will study issues related to the establishment and maintenance of a State cemetery inventory system, including evaluating the feasibility and cost of establishing a grant program to provide financial assistance to various groups including governmental entities to expedite identification of cemeteries.

This bill will have a positive impact on the identification and inventory of cemeteries statewide. Many local jurisdictions, including the City of Baltimore, do not have a comprehensive inventory system for cemeteries and burial sites. A single inventory system will be very important for identification, documentation, research, and stewardship of these important sites.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 0509.