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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF INFORMATION ON HB711.**

TO: House Health & Government Operations Committee  
FROM: Deborah Rappazzo, Executive Director, Office of Cemetery Oversight  
DATE: February 18, 2025  
BILL: HB 711 - Office of Cemetery Oversight - Study of Deathcare and Funeral Practices

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House Bill 711 establishes a workgroup to conduct a study of the environmental and public health impacts of death care and funeral practices in Maryland. At the direction of the Office of Cemetery Oversight (“OCO”), the workgroup will consult with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Department of Labor and the Department of the Environment to articulate their findings and provide a report to the Governor on or before July 1, 2026.

The OCO is a small self-funded unit. When fully staffed, the OCO consists of a total of three full-time employees and one part-time employee. Due to OCO’s limited staffing, the OCO will have to increase staff to handle the new duties created by House Bill 711. Furthermore, since the OCO is a self-funded unit, it will be challenging for the OCO to absorb the additional staffing and legal expenses that will be necessary to fulfill the goals of this study.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **[Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov](mailto:Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov)**