



# PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 18, 2025

Hon. Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 240  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland

**RE: HB0509 FAVORABLE**

**Chairperson Pena-Melnyk,**

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **SUPPORT of HB0509**— a piece of legislation that would establish the Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup for the purpose of studying issues related to the establishment and maintenance of a state cemetery inventory system.

Preservation Maryland is the nonprofit, statewide voice for historic preservation that harnesses the power of historic places by revitalizing and reinvesting in communities, advocating, and building the historic trades workforce for the benefit of all Marylanders. (Learn more at: [presmd.org](http://presmd.org))

This legislation would establish a Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup for the purpose of studying issues related to the establishment and maintenance of a state cemetery inventory system and would, in turn, require the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor by December 1, 2025. In short, this bill would create a workgroup to report on how best to monitor and inventory cemeteries across the state – a critical need for identification of historic cemeteries and prioritizing investment in preservation. We support this legislation as we believe its passage would provide the identification and support needed in the steps to preserve Maryland’s historic Cemeteries and Burial Sites.

HB0509 is an impactful piece of legislation, and we urge a favorable report.

**Favorable**

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO