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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR LETTER OF INFORMATION ON HB 509.**

TO: House Health & Government Operations Committee  
FROM: Deborah Rappazo, Executive Director, Office of Cemetery Oversight  
DATE: February 18, 2025  
BILL: HB 509 Maryland Inventory of Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup -  
Establishment

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House Bill 509 establishes a workgroup between the Office of Cemetery Oversight (“OCO”) and the Maryland Historical Trust for the purpose of studying issues related to the creation and maintenance of a State cemetery inventory system. This workgroup will also explore various laws and regulations pertaining to cemeteries and burial sites and evaluate the feasibility and cost of establishing a grant program to provide financial assistance to governmental entities and nonprofit genealogical and historical organizations.

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 509. 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 workgroup.

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

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