



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 0535

February 14, 2025

TO: Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

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

RE: House Bill 0535 – Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund – Establishment and Income Tax Checkoff

POSITION: Letter of Information

Chair Peña-Melnick, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) would like to provide the below **information** for House Bill (HB) 0535.

This bill will create a fund to provide for the maintenance, preservation, and restoration of abandoned and neglected cemeteries in the State. It will also establish an income tax checkoff for contributions to the Fund.

Funding for the stewardship of abandoned and neglected cemeteries is very much needed, and the creation of this Fund will help people offset the considerable costs of addressing decades of damage to cemeteries caused by a lack of maintenance and/or vandalism. However, this bill does not identify a mechanism to disperse funds for cemetery stewardship, nor does it identify eligibility requirements for funding.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully submits this **letter of information** on HB 0535.