



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, DrPH, MHSA, Acting Secretary

Maryland Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors
4201 Patterson Ave
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 240, Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1555 - Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Oversight (Ensuring Dignity and Accountability in Crematory and Funeral Home Operations Act) – Support as amended

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) respectfully submits this letter of support for HB 1555 – Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities - Oversight (Ensuring Dignity and Accountability in Crematory and Funeral Home Operations Act) as amended.

The Bill, as currently written, does present concerns by the Board. While the Board fully supports transparency and accountability within the profession, there are several concerns regarding the publication of complaints and its potential unintended consequences. Currently, the Board follows an established process for handling complaints, governed by COMAR, which does not allow for public disclosure of complaint contents. This bill would override that protection. Under H.O. 1-607, the Board already publishes final, public orders on its website. However, many disciplinary actions—such as Letters of Education or Letters of Admonishment—are non-public. The Bill does not clarify whether those measures will remain available to the Board or if all discipline must now be public when it concerns establishments. Furthermore, not all complaints received by the Board constitute violations of the Practice Act or applicable regulations. Some are general service concerns rather than breaches of law. As written, this Bill would require the Board to publish all complaints, regardless of merit.

However, the Board understands that amendments will be considered on HB 1555 in the hearing, which will alleviate the issues stated in the paragraph above. For the record, the Board supports

the Bill with those amendments, as they satisfy the needs and concerns of the profession and the public.

Therefore, the Board requests a favorable vote on HB 1555 as amended. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (410) 764-4714 or erika.malone1@maryland.gov or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison at (443) 794-4757 or lillian.reese@maryland.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Malone", written in a cursive style.

Erika Malone
Executive Director

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

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