

John R. Stierhoff, Esquire
(410) 244-7833
jrstierhoff@venable.com

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The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 616 – Criminal Law – Human Remains, Pet Remains, and Cemeteries -
Prohibitions

Dear Chair Smith:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association (“MCCA”) in Support of Senate Bill 616.

Senate Bill 616 extends the provisions of Section 10-401 of the Criminal Law Article of the Code to cemeteries owned by a family or a religious organization; prohibits the tampering of human remains in a cemetery; and creates a private right of action for a family member or decedent who suffers damages for a violation of these provisions among other things.

MCCA condemns the removal or tampering with human or pet remains in a cemetery, and agrees that these acts should be considered a felony.

Founded in 1916, MCCA represents the shared interests and concerns of professionals across the spectrum of Maryland’s “death care” industries.

The Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association respectfully requests the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to Support Senate Bill 624.

Sincerely,

John R. Stierhoff

cc: Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee