

**MIKE MCKAY**  
*Legislative District 1*  
Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties



Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

*Joint Committees*  
Administrative, Executive,  
and Legislative Review  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Program Open Space and Agricultural  
Land Preservation

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

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**Senate Bill 616 – Criminal Law – Human Remains, Pet Remains, and Cemeteries – Prohibitions**

January 22, 2025

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 616 alters the definition of “permanent cemetery” to include a cemetery owned by a family or religious organization. It will prohibit any person from tampering with human remains interred in a cemetery and will alter certain penalties relating to prohibitions against the removal of human remains from a burial site. There will also be prohibitions against anyone damaging, desecrating, mutilating, storing, tampering with, trafficking or transporting human remains as well as removing or attempting to remove pet remains from a cemetery.

I thank you for your time and I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike McKay", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Senator Mike McKay  
Representing the Appalachia Region of Maryland  
Serving Garrett, Allegany, and Washington Counties