



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1000

February 18, 2025

TO: Members of the Judiciary Committee

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

RE: House Bill 1000 – Criminal Law - Human Remains, Pet Remains, and Cemeteries - Prohibitions

POSITION: Support with Amendment

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** House Bill (HB) 1000.

This bill will strengthen protections for historic cemeteries, as the bill includes increased legal and monetary consequences for the removal of human remains and damage or removal of cemetery features (headstones, tombs, fencing, etc.) It also expands the definition of a “permanent cemetery” in Section 10–401 (d). Currently, the term only applies to cemeteries owned by three types of entities: a cemetery company regulated under Title 5 of the Business Regulation 27 Article, a non-profit organization, or the State; this bill adds “a family” or “religious organization” to the list of owners.

The BCA proposes an amendment to Section 10–401 (d) that adds “local government or municipality” as an additional owner of a “permanent cemetery.”

There are several historic cemeteries located on property owned by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore. These historic resources are vulnerable to damage and looting. This amendment will ensure that historic cemeteries owned by local governments or municipalities gain these additional protections.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **support with amendment** report on HB 1000.