

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

February 18, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Clippinger:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association (“MCCA”) in Support with Amendments of House Bill 1000.

House Bill 1000 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. However, we believe that clarifying language should be added to House Bill 1000 stating that these provisions do not prohibit a cemetery from enforcing its rules and regulations pertaining to the removal of funeral decorations.

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 House Health & Government Operations Committee to Support House Bill 1000 with Amendments.

Sincerely,

John R. Stierhoff

cc: Members, House Judiciary Committee