

Testimony in Support of HB0892

Business Regulation – Cemeteries – Actions for Sale, Transfer,
or Alternate Use

Delegate Hill

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Myers, and I am here in strong support of
HB0892.

I serve as Vice President of the Coalition to Protect Maryland
Burial Sites, and I am a native of Hoopers Island on Maryland's
Eastern Shore. My connection to this issue is both professional
and deeply personal. Cemeteries such as Anchor Hope Cemetery
and Hoopers Island Graveyard, where generations of my family
are buried, represent not only sacred resting places but
irreplaceable pieces of Maryland's history and heritage.

Too often, cemeteries become vulnerable when ownership
changes hands, corporations dissolve, or properties are sold for
alternate use. Without clear legal protections and defined
procedures, burial grounds can fall into neglect, be disturbed, or
lose the safeguards necessary to ensure perpetual care. HB0892
establishes important oversight and accountability when a
cemetery is proposed for sale, transfer, or alternative use. It
ensures transparency, court review, and consideration of
descendants and the broader community.

For rural and historic communities like those on the Eastern
Shore, cemeteries tell the story of watermen, church
congregations, and families who shaped Maryland. Once these
sites are compromised, the loss cannot be undone.

HB0892 provides clarity before crisis, protection before
damage, and dignity where it is most deserved.

I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration