



DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
Office of the Commissioner
1100 N. Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: February 25, 2026

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill Title: HB893 – Business Regulation-Abandoned Cemeteries- Acquisition and Disposition

Re: Letter of Support

HB 893, entitled – Business Regulation-Abandoned Cemeteries-Acquisition and Disposition, will provide authority to a governmental unit with the power to condemn properties to acquire property containing a cemetery. *For Clarity, OCO does not possess that authority or request that authority.*

Furthermore, with court approval this would allow the governmental unit to sell the property to a person or organization that would be willing to maintain and preserve the cemetery property.

HB 893 will provide a person or organization with a direct legal process to obtain abandoned property with a cemetery. Hopefully, this bill will allow abandoned cemeteries to obtain the preservation and maintenance needed to restore dignity to all that are buried on the property. However, if the sale of the cemetery property is not completed, the governmental unit will be responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery property. This will remain in effect until which time another buyer is found.

This bill could bring a positive remedy for abandoned cemeteries to gain ownership and hopefully over time help eliminate abandoned cemeteries in our State.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**