



House Economic Matters and Health Committees    Hearing on HB892    Date: February 25, 2026

CPMBS position: FAV

Paired with SB 233

## **Business Regulation-- Cemeteries-- Actions for Sale, Transfer, Alternate Use**

CPMBS is an all-volunteer nonprofit that since 1992 has advocated for improvement in distressful cemetery situations that occur across Maryland and for needed changes in state law. We are particularly interested in Maryland law providing processes that will benefit all cemeteries in the various situations in which historic burial sites are often found. We participate in the good work of Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates.

Of specific interest are Maryland cemeteries that face abandonment, threats from construction and development, and total erasure. HB892 was crafted by Maryland Cemetery Legislative Advocates to provide assurance that the views of many individuals and groups will be considered when land on which a cemetery is located is being proposed for sale, transfer, or an alternate use. Yes, this situation happens every once in a while.

Many historic cemeteries are located on larger properties, tucked into corners not used recently or lost in the woods. Without this additional proposed legal process, they will continue to be overlooked when subdivisions are planned, public hearings are set, and owners are not encouraged to consider past history and use of their land.

A more thorough process is needed to guide how persons of interest (already defined in Maryland law) would bring an action when the owner of a cemetery proposes its sale, transfer, or alternate use. HB892 defines the rights of descendant communities in a balanced approach for the treatment of cemeteries, and allows for these properties to be safeguarded when going through the courts.

While HB892 will assist all Maryland cemeteries that have been Abandoned or neglected, a goodly number of them are African American burial sites. All Maryland cemeteries and burial grounds should be protected, honored, and respected in every situation, whether peaceful or not.

Thank you for your consideration.

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