



January 29, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 234 – Business Regulation – Abandoned Cemeteries – Acquisition and Disposition

Dear Chair Beidle:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association (“MDCCA”) in opposition to Senate Bill 234.

Founded in 1916, the Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association represents the shared interests and concerns of professionals across the spectrum of Maryland’s “deathcare” industries.

Senate Bill 234 authorizes a governmental unit to acquire property on which an abandoned cemetery is located; requires a governmental unit that acquires property under the Act to make a timely and reasonable effort to contact descendants of the persons interred in the abandoned cemetery; and authorizes a person or organization to bring an action to request the court to transfer property acquired under the Act to that person or organization.

MDCCA recognizes and supports the issues raised by the proponents of Senate Bill 234. However, the proposal includes vague and potentially overly broad categories of organizations and individuals to whom a governmental unit may transfer property. Additionally, the governmental unit allowed to use condemnation proceedings is also undefined, raising serious concerns that the proposal could face constitutional scrutiny.

The process for maintaining and preserving abandoned cemeteries, and the facilitation of the reinterment of any human or pet remains on the property, requires strict regulation and oversight. The Office of Cemetery Oversight, established under the regulatory authority of the State Department of Labor, would be the logical entity to monitor and ensure the appropriate processes are in place. However, the Office is not contemplated to be involved in the statutory scheme proposed in Senate Bill 234.

MDCCA believes that the worthy goals of Senate Bill 234 would be more fully achieved if all interested parties convened during the legislative interim to study the impact and implementation of this proposal.

The Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association respectfully requests the Senate Finance Committee to study the impact of Senate Bill 234 and we offer our association and lay leaders representing nearly fifty Maryland cemeteries to assist and participate in that study.

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Easton
President

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee