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Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management  
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Spending Affordability Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 19, 2026

**SB 413**

**State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors  
Board Operations and Regulation of Crematories and Reduction Facilities**

Good afternoon Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 413, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors Board Operations and Regulation of Crematories and Reduction Facilities. Despite being 56 pages, SB 413 is a simple bill.

The bill consolidates the authority to regulate crematories under the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors. The consolidation helps ensure crematories and other reduction facilities in the State, such as those that offer hydrolysis, are being regulated in the same manner, by a health occupations board that has the requisite public health knowledge to do so. Currently, the Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO) regulates a handful of crematories that are co-located at cemeteries, which has created inefficiencies as OCO and the Board must agree on and adopt identical regulations for crematory operations. The bill will alleviate those inefficiencies in the regulation of crematories.

The bill makes a few changes to the operations of the Board including:

- Renaming it to be the Board of Morticians, Funeral Directors, and Crematories;
- Authorizing the Governor to remove a board member for repeated and unexplained absences or any just and reasonable cause (in addition to the current law authorization to remove for incompetence or misconduct);
- Establishing that a quorum of the Board is a majority of Board members currently appointed so that business can continue to take place even as vacancies on the Board arise; and
- Requiring a simple majority vote for Board actions.

There are amendments to the bill to be considered, we are working with the Board of Morticians on their technical requests and adding a full-time investigator to the Board to help them complete any investigations of mortuaries, funeral homes, or crematories in a timely manner.

I respectfully request a "Favorable Report" on SB 413 with amendments.