

Maryland Military Coalition SB0046 Written Testimo

Uploaded by: David Lutzow

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – SB0046 – State Veterans’ Cemeteries – Interment

Dear Chair Beidle and distinguished members of the Finance Committee

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0046 State Veterans’ Cemeteries – Interment**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. This bill will modernize Maryland’s Code with respect to internments at veterans’ cemeteries by providing definitions that are consistent with today’s terminology.

Changes are needed to the current definitions in Maryland statutes and code as outlined below.

- 2024 Maryland Statutes Business Regulation, Title 5 - Subtitle 1 - Section 5-101, Section 5-803
- 2024 Maryland Statutes Health Occupations, Title 7 - Morticians and Funeral Directors, Subtitle 4 – Miscellaneous, Section 7-406 – Cremation.
- Maryland Code, State Government Section 9-901, 9-905, and 9-907.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0046** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Finance Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David Lutzow
David Lutzow
Senior Master Sergeant (Ret), U.S. Air Force
Director

¹ See attached list of member organizations.

SB 46 Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV



SB0046/703824/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

27 JAN 26
08:36:03

BY: Senator Simonaire
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 46
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 7, in line 18, after “**COLUMBARIUM**” insert “**INURNMENT**”.

SB 46 Senator Simonaire_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE
Legislative District 31
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 46 – Cremation Burial Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 46.

I worked with the *Department of Veterans and Military Families*, *Department of Health*, *Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors* and other military advocates on this consensus legislation.

This bill clarifies the different types of interment at our state veterans' cemeteries. Our state veteran cemeteries provide interment in graves or niches in a columbarium for veterans and their families.

Unlike our *Business Regulations* laws, the *State Government* laws regarding Veterans' Cemeteries were initially written exclusively with grave burials.

Specifically, what this bill does is:

1. Updates the *State Government* Article's Veterans' Cemetery laws to current standards and terminology, and
2. Also in a similar manner, it revises our laws that deal with unclaimed veterans' remains and their interment in *Business Regulations* and *Health Occupations* Article.

I can go into greater detail if desired, but I worked with the stakeholders and this is consensus legislation.

That is the bill and for all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

DVMF SB46 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Morgan Murphy

Position: FAV



**Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families
Office of the Secretary**

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

ARUNA MILLER
LT. GOVERNOR

ED ROTHSTEIN
ACTING SECRETARY

**Senate Bill 46 - State Veterans' Cemeteries - Interment
SUPPORT**

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Finance Committee
3 East Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) is committed to leading veterans and their families through life's transitions, making Maryland the best state for military-connected communities. DVMF's Cemetery and Memorial Program offers our honored veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place at one of five state veterans cemeteries located throughout Maryland. Our department supports Senate Bill 46 - State Veterans' Cemeteries - Interment.

This technical but important bill amends Maryland law to mirror the National Cemetery Administration's federal terminology regarding interment costs and arrangements. We support the General Assembly's continued effort to expand eligibility, align with federal language, and modernize the veteran and military-connected definitions across the Code. This bill has no fiscal impact.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Rothstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Rothstein
Acting Secretary

SB0046_VeteransCaucus_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Veterans Caucus Maryland

Position: FAV



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

January 29, 2026

Delegate Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0046: State Veterans' Cemeteries – Interment

Dear Chairwoman Beidle,

Please let this letter serve as notice of the support of the Maryland General Assembly Veterans Caucus for Senate Bill 46.

After review by our respective legislative committee, the Veterans Caucus believes that the above-mentioned legislation would provide a valuable benefit to the veterans of the State of Maryland and requests a favorable report.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Senator Benjamin Brooks
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Rogers".

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair