



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

WES MOORE
GOVERNOR

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ACTING SECRETARY

**House Bill 677 - Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations -
Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity
SUPPORT**

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, 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 House Bill 677 - Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity.

This technical bill simply updates statutory language to include other businesses besides licensed funeral homes that engage in the crematory business. HB 677 also replaces out-dated language with more accurate and modern terminology.

DVMF supports 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