



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 16, 2026

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

Subject: **Request for FAVORABLE Report** – HB0677 – Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains - Immunity

Dear Chair Bagnall and distinguished members of the Health Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition¹ (MMC) I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **HB0677 – Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations - Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains – Immunity**, sponsored by Delegate Nkongolo. Like its companion bill, SB0042 sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire, HB0677 clarifies definitions for Registered Reduction Operator and Cremains Hydrolyzed or Soil. For documentation purposes, SB0042 followed changes and definitions from two previous Senate bills.

SB0443, introduced February 6, 2015, Changed Maryland code as listed in:

- Business Regulation §18 Section 5–101,
- Business Regulation §Section 5–803
- Courts and Judicial Proceedings §7 Section
- Code of Maryland Health Occupations Section §7–101
- Occupations Section §7–406

SB0057 introduced January 8, 2025, Changed Maryland code as listed in:

- Business Regulation Section §5–803
- Health Occupations Section §7–406

Delegate Nkongolo’s bill compliments SB0042, by adding definitions for Registered Reduction Operator and Cremains or Hydrolyzed or Soil. All previous bills are very clear, no person, organization, or company should be held liable when acting in good faith relating to the disposition of unclaimed remains of veterans.

¹ See attached list of member organizations

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The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** HB0677 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Health Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. For further information, visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>

We want to thank Delegate Nkongolo 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



Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars