

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



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 42 – Veteran Cremations Revisions

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 42.

This is identical to HB 677 that passed from this committee.

This bill updates the provision of law to include the different types of disposals of human remains that were recently passed in Maryland as it pertains to unclaimed veteran's remains.

In 2015 former Senator Doug Peters sponsored legislation that helped give veterans who had unclaimed remains a proper burial and recognition, and I worked with him on this section of law over the years as well.

This was done by setting up a process to work with veteran nonprofits like *Missing in America Project* who help locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of military veterans.

The unclaimed cremains are then transferred to the veteran's organization where the original legislation also provided a liability exempt for the transferring and receiving of these remains.

Recently, Maryland updated its burial laws to allow in addition to cremains, the use of hydrolyzed remains, and soil remains.

This bill simply updates the laws dealing with unclaimed veterans' remains that are transferred and received by including unclaimed hydrolyzed or soil remains of veterans' language.

That's the bill.

For all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.