



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

Maryland Board of Morticians & Funeral Directors
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

2026 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 413
COMMITTEE: Health
POSITION: Support as Amended

TITLE: State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors – Board Operations and Regulation of Crematories and Reduction Facilities

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill transfers the authority to regulate certain crematories and reduction facilities from the Office of Cemetery Oversight to the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors; alters the circumstances under which the Governor may remove a Board member; and alters the quorum of the Board.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) supports SB 413 as amended.

The Bill proposes substantial revisions to the statutory framework governing the Board, with particular focus on operations and the regulation of crematories and reduction facilities. It includes several constructive provisions that enhance enforcement authority, establish reinstatement mechanisms, and bolster consumer protections.

The Board’s primary mission is to protect public health, safety, and welfare. This legislation represents a thoughtful and comprehensive effort to modernize and strengthen the laws governing the Board and the practice of mortuary science in Maryland. As amended, it improves regulatory clarity, updates key statutory provisions, and supports the Board’s ability to effectively oversee licensees, funeral establishments, crematories, and reduction facilities in a consistent, efficient, and accountable manner.

The Board appreciates the collaboration and deliberation that have shaped this legislation and believes the adopted amendments have resulted in a balanced and workable framework that aligns statutory authority with operational capacity.

Accordingly, the Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 413, as amended, to ensure the continued protection of Maryland consumers and the integrity of the profession.

For further information, please contact the Board's Executive Director, Erika Malone, at Erika.malone1@maryland.gov or (443) 826-3592, or Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison, at lillian.reese@maryland.gov or (443) 794-4757.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.