



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 677: Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations – Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains**

Good afternoon, Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record, I am Delegate LaToya Nkongolo, and I am here today to present House Bill 677: Reduction Facilities and Veterans Service Organizations – Hydrolyzed and Soil Remains

This Bill is a crossfile to Senator Simonaire's Senate Bill 42 and has received bipartisan support. I am proud to share that the Maryland Veterans Caucus has given this bill their full support, and they join us in seeking a favorable recommendation today.

This simple legislation is a necessary update to our current laws. Maryland already allows funeral homes and crematories to facilitate the disposition of unclaimed veterans through cremation. However, the law doesn't recognize newer, environmentally friendly methods of disposition, specifically soil disposition or water disposition scientifically known as natural organic reduction and hydrolyzed reduction. Simply put, we are asking that our law is updated to include cremation, water and soil disposition.

This bill ensures that every veteran, regardless of the method of reduction they or their family chooses, is treated with the dignity they earned through their service. It protects the operators and organizations working to honor that service, ensuring no veteran is left behind due to a legal technicality.

We want to support those who served our country and ensure their final wishes are honored. I urge a favorable report on House Bill 677.