

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3593
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593
Pamela.Beidle@senate.maryland.gov

Chair, Finance Committee

Executive Nominations Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management
of Public Funds

Spending Affordability Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

April 1, 2026

SB 413

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

Good afternoon Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and Members of the Health Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 413, State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors -Board Operations and Regulation of Crematories and Reduction Facilities. SB 413 passed the Senate 39 to 0 and it is the cross-file of HB 698 passed by this Committee and the House 136 -0. There were several technical amendments made by this Committee to the House Bill and we view them as friendly amendments to once again conform the two bills.

The bill consolidates the authority to regulate crematories under the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors. The consolidation helps ensure crematories and other reduction facilities in the State, such as those that offer hydrolysis, are being regulated in the same manner, by a health occupations board that has the requisite public health knowledge to do so. Currently, the Office of Cemetery Oversight (OCO) regulates a handful of crematories that are co-located at cemeteries, which has created inefficiencies as OCO and the Board must agree on and adopt identical regulations for crematory operations. The bill will alleviate those inefficiencies in the regulation of crematories.

The bill makes a few changes to the operations of the Board including:

- Authorizing the Governor to remove a board member for repeated and unexplained absences or any just and reasonable cause (in addition to the current law authorization to remove for incompetence or misconduct);
- Establishing that a quorum of the Board is a majority of Board members currently appointed so that business can continue to take place even as vacancies on the Board arise; and
- Requiring a simple majority vote for Board actions.

We worked with the Board of Morticians on their technical requests and added a full-time investigator to the Board to assist in the completion of investigations of mortuaries, funeral homes, or crematories in a timely manner.

I respectfully request an "Favorable Report" on SB 413 with amendments to conform with HB 698.