

# HOUSE BILL 1168

C2, J1, J2

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CF SB 1028

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By: **Delegates Kaiser, Boyce, Charkoudian, Fair, Foley, McCaskill, Qi, Ruth, Sample-Hughes, Solomon, Williams, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Remains – Alkaline Hydrolysis and Natural Organic Reduction**  
3 **(Green Death Care Options Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a regulatory system for reduction operators and reduction  
5 facilities; establishing requirements and prohibitions related to the performance of  
6 alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction and the disposition of hydrolyzed  
7 or soil remains by certain facilities; requiring the Director of the State Board of  
8 Morticians and Funeral Directors to adopt regulations governing the performance of  
9 natural organic reduction; prohibiting a person from using or disposing of soil  
10 remains produced by natural organic reduction in a certain manner, including by  
11 using the soil to grow food for consumption by humans or livestock; and generally  
12 relating to alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Business Regulation  
15 Section 5–101, 5–204(a), (b), and (k), 5–301, 5–302, 5–303, 5–306(a), 5–308, 5–310(a)  
16 and (b), 5–401, 5–402, 5–403, 5–803, 5–902, and 5–903  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – Business Regulation  
21 Section 5–901(d)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
25 Article – Health – General  
26 Section 5–502, 5–503, 5–504, 5–508, 5–511(a) and (b), 5–512, 5–513, and 5–514  
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2023 Replacement Volume)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
3 Article – Health Occupations  
4 Section 7–101(a)  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

7 BY adding to  
8 Article – Health Occupations  
9 Section 7–101(a–1), (l–1), (s–1), (v–1), and (v–2)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Health Occupations  
14 Section 7–101(c–1), (h), (i), (l), (t), and (u), 7–102, 7–205(c), 7–406, and 7–505  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Business Regulation**

20 5–101.

21 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 **(B) “ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS” MEANS THE PROCESS OF REDUCING HUMAN**  
23 **REMAINS USING WATER, ALKALINE CHEMICALS, AND HEAT INSIDE A WATERTIGHT**  
24 **VESSEL TO ACCELERATE DECOMPOSITION.**

25 **(C) “AUTHORIZING AGENT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–508 OF THE**  
26 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

27 **[(b)] (D)** (1) “Burial goods” means goods that are used in connection with  
28 burial.

29 (2) “Burial goods” includes:

30 (i) a casket;

31 (ii) a grave liner;

32 (iii) a memorial;

1 (iv) a monument;

2 (v) a scroll;

3 (vi) an urn;

4 (vii) a vase; and

5 (viii) a vault.

6 [(c)] (E) “Burial goods business” means a business that provides burial goods.

7 [(d)] (F) (1) “Cemetery” means land used or to be used for interment.

8 (2) “Cemetery” includes a structure used or to be used for interment.

9 [(e)] (G) “Cremation” means the [process of reducing human remains to bone  
10 fragments through intense heat and evaporation, including any mechanical or thermal  
11 process] **DISPOSITION OF A DEAD HUMAN BODY BY MEANS OF INCINERATION.**

12 [(f)] (H) “Crematory” means a building, portion of a building, or structure that  
13 houses the necessary appliances and facilities for cremation **OR ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS.**

14 [(g)] (I) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight.

15 [(h)] (J) “Engage in the operation of a cemetery” means owning, controlling, or  
16 managing a cemetery, including performing activities necessary for:

17 (1) the establishment, improvement, care, preservation, or embellishment  
18 of a cemetery;

19 (2) interment; and

20 (3) the providing of burial space or burial goods.

21 [(i)] (K) (1) “Engage in the operation of a crematory” means controlling or  
22 managing a crematory.

23 (2) “Engage in the operation of a crematory” does not include:

24 (i) the practice of funeral direction or the practice of mortuary  
25 science; or

26 (ii) 1. assistance in making decisions and filling out forms that  
27 are not directly related to cremation;

- 1                                   2.     obtaining vital statistics, signatures, and other  
2 information necessary to complete a death certificate;
- 3                                   3.     transportation of a body to the place of disposition; or
- 4                                   4.     any other services regarding the disposition of a body that  
5 are not directly related to cremation.

6           **(L) (1) “ENGAGE IN THE OPERATION OF A REDUCTION FACILITY” MEANS**  
7 **CONTROLLING OR MANAGING A REDUCTION FACILITY.**

8                   **(2) “ENGAGE IN THE OPERATION OF A REDUCTION FACILITY” DOES**  
9 **NOT INCLUDE:**

10                           **(I) THE PRACTICE OF FUNERAL DIRECTION OR THE PRACTICE**  
11 **OF MORTUARY SCIENCE; OR**

12                                   **(II) 1. ASSISTANCE IN MAKING DECISIONS AND FILLING OUT**  
13 **FORMS THAT ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION;**

14   **2. OBTAINING VITAL STATISTICS, SIGNATURES, AND**  
15 **OTHER INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE A DEATH CERTIFICATE;**

16   **3. TRANSPORTATION OF A BODY TO THE PLACE OF**  
17 **DISPOSITION; OR**

18   **4. ANY OTHER SERVICES REGARDING THE DISPOSITION**  
19 **OF A BODY THAT ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

20           **[(j)] (M) “Funeral establishment” means a building, structure, or premises from**  
21 **which the business of funeral directing or embalming is conducted.**

22           **[(k)] (N) (1) “Human remains” means:**

23                                   (i)     the body of a deceased person; or

24                                   (ii)    a part of a body or limb that has been removed from a living  
25 person.

26                                   (2)     “Human remains” includes the body or part of a body or limb in any  
27 state of decomposition.

28                                   **(3) “HUMAN REMAINS” DOES NOT INCLUDE SOIL REMAINS**  
29 **PRODUCED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

1           **(O) “HYDROLYZED REMAINS” MEANS THE BONE FRAGMENTS PRODUCED BY**  
2 **THE COMPLETION OF ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS.**

3           **[(l)] (P)**       “Interment” means all final disposition of human remains or pet  
4 remains, including:

- 5                   (1)     earth burial;
- 6                   (2)     mausoleum entombment; and
- 7                   (3)     niche or columbarium interment.

8           **(Q) “NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION” MEANS THE CONTAINED**  
9 **ACCELERATED CONVERSION OF HUMAN REMAINS INTO SOIL.**

10          **[(m)] (R)**       “Office” means the Office of Cemetery Oversight.

11          **[(n)] (S)**       “Permit” means a permit issued by the Director to allow a partnership,  
12 limited liability company, or corporation to operate a business through which a registrant  
13 may:

- 14                   (1)     engage in the operation of a cemetery or crematory; or
- 15                   (2)     provide burial goods.

16          **[(o)] (T)**       (1)     “Pet remains” means the body of a deceased animal that was kept  
17 as a pet.

18                   (2)     “Pet remains” includes the body of a pet or a part of a pet’s body in any  
19 state of decomposition or the body of a pet after having been cremated.

20          **[(p)] (U)**       (1)     “Preneed goods” means burial goods that are sold before the  
21 buyer’s death.

22                   (2)     “Preneed goods” does not include burial space.

23          **[(q)] (V)**       “Provide burial goods” means a retail transaction:

- 24                   (1)     to erect, service, or inscribe burial memorials; or
- 25                   (2)     to sell burial goods.

26          **(W) “REDUCTION FACILITY” MEANS A BUILDING, PORTION OF A BUILDING,**  
27 **OR STRUCTURE THAT HOUSES THE NECESSARY APPLIANCES, CONTAINERS, AND**  
28 **FACILITIES FOR PERFORMING NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

1            [(r)] (X)        “Registered cemeterian” means an individual registered to operate a  
2 cemetery as a sole proprietor or on behalf of a sole proprietor or of a permit holder.

3            [(s)] (Y)        “Registered crematory operator” means an individual registered to  
4 operate a crematory as a sole proprietor or on behalf of a sole proprietor or permit holder.

5            (Z)        “**REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL  
6 REGISTERED TO OPERATE A REDUCTION FACILITY AS A SOLE PROPRIETOR OR ON  
7 BEHALF OF A SOLE PROPRIETOR OR A PERMIT HOLDER.

8            [(t)] (AA)        “Registered seller” means an individual registered to provide burial  
9 goods as a sole proprietor or on behalf of a sole proprietor or of a permit holder.

10           [(u)] (BB)        “Registration” means a registration issued by the Director authorizing  
11 an individual to operate a cemetery, to operate a crematory, **TO OPERATE A REDUCTION**  
12 **FACILITY**, or to provide burial goods.

13           [(v)] (CC)        “Responsible party” means a sole proprietor or the individual  
14 designated by a partnership, limited liability company, or corporation to be responsible for  
15 the operations of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business.

16           (DD)        “**SOIL REMAINS**” MEANS THE SOIL PRODUCED AT FINAL DISPOSITION OF  
17 A DEAD HUMAN BODY AT A REDUCTION FACILITY BY COMPLETION OF NATURAL  
18 ORGANIC REDUCTION.

19 5–204.

20           (a)        (1)        With the advice of the Advisory Council and after consultation with  
21 representatives of the cemetery industry, the Director shall adopt:

22                            (i)        rules and regulations to carry out this title; and

23                            (ii)       a code of ethics for engaging in the operation of a cemetery [or],  
24 crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** or providing burial goods.

25                            (2)        In conjunction with the State Board of Morticians and Funeral  
26 Directors, the Director shall:

27                            (i)        establish a process for regulating crematories **AND REDUCTION**  
28 **FACILITIES** that provides for:

29    1.        registration of crematory operators **AND REDUCTION**  
30 **FACILITY OPERATORS** or issuance of permits for operating crematories **AND REDUCTION**  
31 **FACILITIES**, and renewal;

1                   2.     applications, including certification of ownership and  
2 identification of individuals who will perform **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, cremation, OR**  
3 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION;**

4                   3.     registration and permit fees;

5                   4.     inspections and oversight;

6                   5.     grounds for discipline and penalties; and

7                   6.     complaints and hearings; and

8                   (ii)    adopt regulations that are identical to regulations adopted by the  
9 State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors to:

10                  1.     implement item (i) of this paragraph; and

11                  2.     ensure public health and safety.

12                   **(3)    THE DIRECTOR SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:**

13                   **(I)    REQUIRE A LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR**  
14 **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR TO NOTIFY THE AUTHORIZING AGENT IN**  
15 **WRITING AND BEFORE INITIATING NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION THAT A PERSON**  
16 **IS PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM USING OR DISPOSING OF SOIL REMAINS UNDER §**  
17 **5-514 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**

18                   **(II)   REQUIRE A REDUCTION FACILITY TO MONITOR AND**  
19 **RECORD WRITTEN VERIFICATION THAT THE TEMPERATURE DURING EACH**  
20 **INSTANCE OF A NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION PROCESS ATTAINS A SPECIFIED**  
21 **MINIMUM INTERNAL EQUIPMENT TEMPERATURE FOR A SPECIFIED MINIMUM**  
22 **PERIOD OF TIME;**

23                   **(III)  ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AND**  
24 **EXPERIENCE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF REDUCTION OPERATORS;**

25                   **(IV)  PROHIBIT THE USE OF NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION IN**  
26 **ANY INSTANCE IN WHICH THE HUMAN REMAINS ARE KNOWN, OR REASONABLY**  
27 **SUSPECTED, TO BE EMBALMED OR TO HAVE AN INFECTION, DISEASE, OR**  
28 **BIOLOGICAL CONDITION THAT RENDERS THE PROCESS OF NATURAL ORGANIC**  
29 **REDUCTION OR THE RESULTING SOIL REMAINS UNREASONABLY UNSAFE,**  
30 **INCLUDING:**

- 1                   1.    **CREUTZFELDT–JAKOB DISEASE OR OTHER PRION**  
2 **DISEASE;**
- 3                   2.    **EBOLA VIRUS INFECTION;**
- 4                   3.    **MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION;**
- 5                   4.    **THE PRESENCE OF DIAGNOSTIC OR THERAPEUTIC**  
6 **RADIOISOTOPES; OR**
- 7                   5.    **ANY OTHER INFECTION, DISEASE, OR BIOLOGICAL**  
8 **CONDITION IDENTIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR BASED ON THE REASONABLE**  
9 **RECOMMENDATION OF A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY;**

10                   **(v) ESTABLISH A MANDATORY CONTAMINATION TESTING**  
11 **PROGRAM FOR REDUCTION FACILITIES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF SOIL REMAINS**  
12 **PRODUCED, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM PROGRAM ELEMENTS:**

13                   1.    **COLLECTING ROUTINE MATERIAL SAMPLES FROM**  
14 **SOIL REMAINS FOR ANALYSIS USING:**

15                   **A.    A RELIABLE SAMPLING METHODOLOGY; AND**

16                   **B.    AN APPROPRIATE FREQUENCY OF SAMPLING, AS**  
17 **RECOMMENDED OR APPROVED BY THE U.S. COMPOSTING COUNCIL OR ANOTHER**  
18 **RELIABLE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY AUTHORITY;**

19                   2.    **RECORDING AND RETAINING THE RESULTS OF AN**  
20 **ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES FROM THE SOIL REMAINS CONDUCTED BY AN INDEPENDENT**  
21 **THIRD–PARTY LABORATORY TO IDENTIFY THE PRESENCE OF HEAVY METALS OR**  
22 **MICROBIAL PATHOGENS ACCORDING TO THE APPROPRIATE CONTAMINATION**  
23 **PARAMETERS FOR BIOSOLIDS SPECIFIED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL**  
24 **PROTECTION AGENCY UNDER TITLE 40 C.F.R. PART 503, CHAPTER I,**  
25 **SUBCHAPTER O;**

26                   3.    **CONDUCTING AN ANALYSIS FOR EACH PRODUCTION**  
27 **OF SOIL REMAINS TO ENSURE THAT THE SOIL REMAINS CONTAIN LESS THAN 0.01**  
28 **MG/KG DRY WEIGHT OF SPECIFIC PHYSICAL CONTAMINANTS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE**  
29 **INTACT BONE, DENTAL FILLINGS, AND MEDICAL IMPLANTS;**

30                   4.    **ENSURING THAT NO SOIL REMAINS ARE RELEASED**  
31 **UNTIL THE SOIL REMAINS COMPLY WITH EACH OF THE APPLICABLE**  
32 **CONTAMINATION TESTING PARAMETERS; AND**



1                   **5. PERIODIC REPORTING OF TESTING RESULTS TO**  
2 **APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES THAT HAVE REQUESTED**  
3 **THE RESULTS; AND**

4                   **(VI) ESTABLISH ANY OTHER REASONABLE PROHIBITION, RULE,**  
5 **OR REQUIREMENT THE DIRECTOR DETERMINES IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE**  
6 **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING THE PROCESS OF NATURAL ORGANIC**  
7 **REDUCTION.**

8           (b) Upon receipt of a written complaint, or at the discretion of the Director, the  
9 Director or the Director's designee may conduct an investigation and an inspection of the  
10 records and site of a registered cemeterian, registered crematory operator, **REGISTERED**  
11 **REDUCTION OPERATOR**, registered seller, permit holder, or any other person subject to  
12 the registration or permit provisions of this title.

13           (k) In conjunction with the State Board of Morticians and the Division of  
14 Consumer Protection of the Office of the Attorney General, the Director shall publish a  
15 consumer information pamphlet that describes:

16                   (1) the rights of consumers in the purchase of funeral, cemetery, [and]  
17 crematory goods and services, **AND NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION**; and

18                   (2) any other information that the Director considers reasonably necessary  
19 to aid consumers.

20 5-301.

21 An individual shall register with the Office before:

22                   (1) engaging in the operation of a cemetery [or], crematory, **OR**  
23 **REDUCTION FACILITY** in this State; or

24                   (2) providing burial goods in this State.

25 5-302.

26           (a) In order to register, an applicant shall meet the requirements of this section.

27           (b) The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

28           (c) The applicant must be of good character and reputation.

29           (d) The applicant must be affiliated with a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION**  
30 **FACILITY**, or burial goods business operated by a registrant or permit holder.

1 (e) The cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business  
2 with which the applicant is affiliated must be financially stable in accordance with § 5–304  
3 of this subtitle.

4 5–303.

5 (a) An applicant shall register by:

6 (1) submitting to the Director an application on the form that the Director  
7 provides; and

8 (2) paying a nonrefundable application fee set by the Director.

9 (b) The application shall state:

10 (1) the name, date of birth, and residential address of the applicant;

11 (2) the name and fixed address of the affiliated cemetery, crematory, or  
12 burial goods business;

13 (3) whether the cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial  
14 goods business with which the applicant is affiliated is owned or controlled by a sole  
15 proprietor, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation;

16 (4) if the applicant is designated as the responsible party, the name and  
17 residential address of each employee who sells burial space, goods, or services to the public  
18 for the business while engaging in the operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION**  
19 **FACILITY**, or burial goods business; and

20 (5) any other reasonable information that the Director determines is  
21 necessary to carry out this title.

22 5–306.

23 (a) While a registration is in effect, it authorizes the registrant to engage in the  
24 operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business.

25 5–308.

26 Within 1 week after the effective date of the change, the applicant designated as the  
27 responsible party or the registered responsible party shall submit to the Director an  
28 application form that shows a change in the:

29 (1) cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business  
30 with which a registrant is affiliated;

1 (2) individual designated as the responsible party;

2 (3) employees of the business who engage in the sale of burial space, goods,  
3 or services or cremation to the public;

4 (4) officers, directors, members, or agents of the permit holder; or

5 (5) name or address of the registrant or permit holder.

6 5–310.

7 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 5–312 of this subtitle, the Director may  
8 deny a registration or permit to an applicant, reprimand a person subject to the registration  
9 or permit provisions of this title, or suspend or revoke a registration or permit if an  
10 applicant, registrant, or permit holder, or an agent, employee, officer, director, or partner  
11 of the applicant, registrant, or permit holder:

12 (1) fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a registration  
13 or permit;

14 (2) fraudulently or deceptively uses a registration or permit;

15 (3) under the laws of the United States or of any state, is convicted of a:

16 (i) felony; or

17 (ii) misdemeanor that is directly related to the fitness and  
18 qualifications of the applicant, registrant, or permit holder to own or operate a cemetery  
19 [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** or provide burial goods;

20 (4) fails to provide or misrepresents any information required to be  
21 provided under this title;

22 (5) violates this title;

23 (6) violates the code of ethics adopted by the Director;

24 (7) violates a regulation adopted under this title;

25 (8) fails to provide reasonable and adequate supervision of the operation of  
26 the cemetery [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** or the provision of burial goods  
27 by agents, employees, officers, directors, or partners affiliated with a cemetery, crematory,  
28 **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business;

29 (9) refuses to allow an inspection required by this title;

1 (10) fails to comply with an order of the Director;

2 (11) fails to comply with any terms of settlement under a binding arbitration  
3 agreement;

4 (12) is found guilty by a court in this State of violating an unfair or deceptive  
5 trade practices provision under Title 13 of the Commercial Law Article; or

6 (13) fails to comply with § 5-513 of the Health – General Article.

7 (b) (1) If a person is charged with a violation of this title that could result in  
8 suspension or revocation of a registration or permit, the Director may seek an immediate  
9 restraining order in a circuit court in this State to prohibit the person from engaging in the  
10 operation of any cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business.

11 (2) The restraining order is in effect until:

12 (i) the court lifts the order; or

13 (ii) the charges are adjudicated or dismissed.

14 5-401.

15 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, a registered cemeterian, registered  
16 crematory operator, **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, or registered seller may  
17 engage in the operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods  
18 business as a sole proprietor or through:

19 (1) a corporation as an officer, director, employee, or agent of the  
20 corporation;

21 (2) a limited liability company as a member, employee, or agent of the  
22 limited liability company; or

23 (3) a partnership as a partner, employee, or agent of the partnership.

24 (b) Subject to the provisions of this title, a corporation, limited liability company,  
25 or partnership may engage in the operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION**  
26 **FACILITY**, or burial goods business through a registered cemeterian, registered crematory  
27 operator, **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, or registered seller.

28 (c) (1) A registered cemeterian who engages in the operation of a cemetery  
29 through a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership under this title is subject  
30 to all of the provisions of this title that relate to engaging in the operation of a cemetery.

1 (2) A registered crematory operator who engages in the operation of a  
2 crematory through a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership under this title  
3 is subject to all of the provisions of this title that relate to engaging in the operation of a  
4 crematory.

5 **(3) A REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR WHO ENGAGES IN THE**  
6 **OPERATION OF A REDUCTION FACILITY THROUGH A CORPORATION, LIMITED**  
7 **LIABILITY COMPANY, OR PARTNERSHIP UNDER THIS TITLE IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE**  
8 **PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE THAT RELATE TO ENGAGING IN THE OPERATION OF A**  
9 **REDUCTION FACILITY.**

10 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) A registered seller who engages in the operation of a burial goods  
11 business through a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership under this title is  
12 subject to all of the provisions of this title that relate to providing burial goods services.

13 (d) (1) A corporation, limited liability company, or partnership that engages in  
14 the operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business  
15 under this title is not, by its compliance with this title, relieved of any responsibility that  
16 the corporation, limited liability company, or partnership may have for an act or an  
17 omission by its officer, director, member, partner, employee, or agent.

18 (2) An individual who engages in the operation of a cemetery, crematory,  
19 **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business through a corporation, limited liability  
20 company, or partnership is not, by reason of the individual's employment or other  
21 relationship with the corporation, limited liability company, or partnership, relieved of any  
22 individual responsibility that the individual may have regarding that practice.

23 5-402.

24 A corporation, limited liability company, or partnership shall obtain a permit issued  
25 by the Director, before the corporation, limited liability company, or partnership may  
26 engage in the operation of a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods  
27 business in the State.

28 5-403.

29 To qualify for a permit, a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership shall:

30 (1) designate a separate registered cemeterian, registered crematory  
31 operator, **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, or registered seller as the responsible  
32 party for the operations of each affiliated cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or  
33 burial goods business;

34 (2) provide the name and business address of each affiliated cemetery,  
35 crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business;

1 (3) provide a list of the officers, directors, members, partners, agents, and  
2 employees of the entity applying for the permit; and

3 (4) comply with §§ 5–303(b)(4) and 5–304 of this title.  
4 5–803.

5 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (2) “Eligible dependent” means a veteran’s spouse, a veteran’s unmarried  
7 child under the age of 21 years, or a veteran’s unmarried adult child who before the age of  
8 21 became permanently incapable of self–support because of physical or mental disability.

9 (3) (i) “Identifying information” means data required by a veterans  
10 service organization to verify the eligibility of a veteran or an eligible dependent for burial  
11 in a national or state veterans cemetery.

12 (ii) “Identifying information” includes name, service number, Social  
13 Security number, date of birth, date of death, place of birth, and copy of the death  
14 certificate.

15 (4) “Veteran” has the meaning stated in § 9–901 of the State Government  
16 Article.

17 (5) “Veterans service organization” means an association or other entity  
18 organized for the benefit of veterans that has been recognized by the U.S. Department of  
19 Veterans Affairs or chartered by Congress and any employee or representative of the  
20 association or entity.

21 (b) (1) If a licensed funeral establishment or a crematory is in possession of  
22 cremated human remains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS** that have been unclaimed for 90  
23 days or more, the licensed funeral establishment or holder of the permit for the business of  
24 operating a crematory shall provide identifying information of the unclaimed cremains **OR**  
25 **HYDROLYZED REMAINS** to a veterans service organization in order for the veterans  
26 service organization to determine if the unclaimed cremains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS**  
27 are those of a veteran or an eligible dependent.

28 (2) (I) **SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY**  
29 **IF:**

30 1. **AN AUTHORIZING AGENT DIRECTS OTHERWISE; OR**

31 2. **A LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR**  
32 **REDUCTION FACILITY REASONABLY CONCLUDES BASED ON THE IDENTIFYING**  
33 **INFORMATION OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT A DECEDENT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR**  
34 **DISPOSITION BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH VETERANS STATUS.**

1                   **(II) A LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR REDUCTION**  
2 **FACILITY IN POSSESSION OF HUMAN REMAINS THAT ARE BEING PROCESSED BY**  
3 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION SHALL PROVIDE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO A**  
4 **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER NATURAL**  
5 **ORGANIC REDUCTION IS INITIATED TO DETERMINE IF THE SOIL REMAINS ARE**  
6 **THOSE OF A VETERAN OR AN ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT.**

7           (c) Within 45 days after receipt of the information required by subsection (b) of  
8 this section, the veterans service organization shall notify the licensed funeral  
9 establishment [or], permit holder, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY:**

10                   (1) whether the cremains, **HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR SOIL REMAINS**  
11 are those of a veteran or an eligible dependent; and

12                   (2) if so, whether the veteran or eligible dependent is eligible for burial in  
13 a veterans cemetery.

14           (d) If the unclaimed cremains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS** are those of a veteran  
15 or an eligible dependent, the licensed funeral establishment or permit holder may transfer  
16 the cremains to a veterans service organization for the purpose of disposition of the  
17 cremains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS.**

18           **(E) IF THE UNCLAIMED SOIL REMAINS ARE THOSE OF A VETERAN OR AN**  
19 **ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT, THE LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR REDUCTION**  
20 **FACILITY MAY:**

21                   **(1) TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE SOIL REMAINS NOT EXCEEDING 300**  
22 **CUBIC INCHES IN VOLUME TO A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION THAT GRANTS**  
23 **PERMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSITION; AND**

24                   **(2) IF AUTHORIZED, TRANSFER THE BALANCE OF SOIL REMAINS TO A**  
25 **CEMETERY OR THE OWNER OF A WOODLAND PROTECTED UNDER THE FOREST**  
26 **CONSERVATION ACT.**

27 5-901.

28           **(D) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY**  
29 **NOT ENGAGE IN THE OPERATION OF A REDUCTION FACILITY, ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE**  
30 **IN THE OPERATION OF A REDUCTION FACILITY, OR PROVIDE OR OFFER TO PROVIDE**  
31 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION UNLESS THE INDIVIDUAL IS A REGISTERED**  
32 **REDUCTION OPERATOR.**

33 5-902.

1 Except for a registered cemeterian, registered crematory operator, **REGISTERED**  
 2 **REDUCTION OPERATOR**, or registered seller who operates a business as a sole proprietor  
 3 or a registrant employed by a sole proprietor, a person may not engage in the operation of  
 4 a cemetery, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business unless:

5 (1) the business is a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership;  
 6 and

7 (2) the corporation, limited liability company, or partnership holds a  
 8 permit issued under this title.

9 5–903.

10 Unless a person is authorized as a registrant, a person may not represent to the  
 11 public, by use of a title, including cemeterian, registered cemeterian, crematory operator,  
 12 registered crematory operator, **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, burial goods seller,  
 13 or registered seller, by description of services, methods, or procedures, or otherwise, that  
 14 the person is authorized to engage in the operation of a cemetery [or], crematory, **OR**  
 15 **REDUCTION FACILITY** or provide burial goods.

#### 16 Article – Health – General

17 5–502.

18 (a) This section does not apply to the disposition of a body by a school of medicine  
 19 or dentistry.

20 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a person may not cremate **OR**  
 21 **INITIATE ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS OR NATURAL REDUCTION OF** a body until it has been  
 22 identified by:

23 (1) The next of kin;

24 (2) A person who is authorized to arrange for final disposition of the body  
 25 under §§ 5–508 through 5–512 of this subtitle; or

26 (3) A medical examiner.

27 (c) If a person who is authorized to arrange for final disposition of a body is not  
 28 available to identify the body and authorize cremation, **REDUCTION BY ALKALINE**  
 29 **HYDROLYSIS, OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION**, that person may delegate that  
 30 authority to another person by sending to the delegate an electronic communication that  
 31 contains the name, address, and relationship of the sender to the deceased and the name  
 32 and address of the individual to whom authority is delegated. Written authorization shall  
 33 follow by mail but does not take precedence over the electronic communication authorizing  
 34 the identification and cremation.



1 5-503.

2 A person may not cremate **OR INITIATE ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS OR NATURAL**  
3 **ORGANIC REDUCTION OF** a body until at least 12 hours after death.

4 5-504.

5 A person may not transport a body to a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY**  
6 without using a cot and pouch or receptacle.

7 5-508.

8 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 **(B) "ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
10 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

11 **[(b)] (C)** "Authorizing agent" means the individual who has legal authority to  
12 arrange for and make decisions regarding the final disposition of a dead human body,  
13 including by cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

14 **[(c)] (D)** "Cremation" means the disposition of a dead human body by means of  
15 incineration.

16 **[(d)] (E)** "Crematory" [is a building in which cremations are performed] **HAS**  
17 **THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

18 **[(e)] (F)** "Decedent" means a dead human being.

19 **(G) "NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
20 **5-101 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

21 **[(f)] (H)** "Practitioner" means a person who is licensed by the State as a funeral  
22 director, mortician, or surviving spouse licensee to practice mortuary science.

23 **[(g)] (I)** "Pre-need contract" means an agreement prior to the time of death  
24 between a consumer and a practitioner to provide any goods and services regarding the  
25 final disposition of a dead human body.

26 **(J) "REDUCTION FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
27 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

28 **(K) "SOIL REMAINS" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
29 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

1 5-511.

2 (a) A practitioner and an operator of a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** may  
3 rely on the representations made by an authorizing agent and are not guarantors of the  
4 reliability of those representations.

5 (b) A practitioner and an operator of a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** have  
6 no responsibility to contact or to independently investigate the existence of any next of kin  
7 of the decedent.

8 5-512.

9 (a) A practitioner or an operator of a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** may  
10 not require an authorizing agent to obtain appointment as personal representative of the  
11 decedent's estate as a condition precedent to making final arrangements or authorizing  
12 cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION** of a decedent.

13 (b) A person may not authorize cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR**  
14 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION** when a decedent has left instructions in a document that  
15 the decedent does not wish to be cremated **OR BE SUBJECT TO ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS**  
16 **OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION**.

17 5-513.

18 (a) On taking custody of the body of a decedent in accordance with all  
19 authorizations required by law, a funeral establishment [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION**  
20 **FACILITY** shall maintain the body in a manner that provides for complete coverage of the  
21 body and prevents leakage or spillage except during:

22 (1) Identification, embalming, or preparation of an unembalmed body for  
23 final disposition;

24 (2) Restoration and dressing of a body in preparation for final disposition;  
25 [and]

26 (3) **IF APPLICABLE, PLACEMENT INSIDE A CONTAINED CHAMBER OR**  
27 **VESSEL WITHOUT AN EXTERNAL VISUAL EXPOSURE DURING THE PROCESS OF**  
28 **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION; AND**

29 [(3)] (4) Viewing during a visitation or funeral service.

30 (b) If the unembalmed body of a decedent is to be stored for more than 48 hours  
31 before final disposition, a funeral establishment [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION**

1 **FACILITY** shall maintain the body with refrigeration and at a temperature determined by  
2 regulation.

3 (c) (1) If a funeral establishment [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY**  
4 cannot secure the body of a decedent or cannot store the body as required in subsection (b)  
5 of this section due to an unforeseen circumstance, the funeral establishment [or],  
6 crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** shall notify the State Board of Morticians and  
7 Funeral Directors or the Office of Cemetery Oversight and the person authorized to arrange  
8 for the final disposition of the body under § 5–509 of this subtitle.

9 (2) The notification required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

10 (i) Be made within 24 hours after the occurrence of the unforeseen  
11 circumstance; and

12 (ii) Include the name and location of the facility where the body is  
13 being transferred, the reason for the transfer, and the method of storage.

14 (d) The body of a decedent may not be embalmed or artificially preserved without:

15 (1) The express permission of the person authorized to arrange for the final  
16 disposition of the body under § 5–509 of this subtitle; or

17 (2) A court order.

18 (e) A funeral establishment [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** shall  
19 store the body of a decedent until final disposition at:

20 (1) A funeral establishment licensed under Title 7 of the Health  
21 Occupations Article;

22 (2) A crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** licensed under Title 7 of the  
23 Health Occupations Article;

24 (3) A crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** permitted under Title 5 of the  
25 Business Regulation Article; or

26 (4) Another facility that has passed an inspection with the State Board of  
27 Morticians and Funeral Directors or the Office of Cemetery Oversight within the past 2  
28 years.

29 (f) A funeral establishment, crematory, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or  
30 transportation service may not transport or store the body of a decedent together with  
31 animal remains in the same confined space.

1 (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, while the body  
2 of a decedent is in the custody of a funeral establishment [or], crematory, **OR REDUCTION**  
3 **FACILITY** in the State, the body may not be transported for preparation or storage to a  
4 facility that is not within the jurisdiction of the State, licensed by the State Board of  
5 Morticians and Funeral Directors, or permitted by the Office of Cemetery Oversight.

6 (2) The body of a decedent may be transported for preparation or storage  
7 to a facility that is not within the jurisdiction of the State, licensed by the State Board of  
8 Morticians and Funeral Directors, or permitted by the Office of Cemetery Oversight if:

9 (i) The facility has entered into a written agreement with the State  
10 Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors or the Office of Cemetery Oversight to allow the  
11 State to make unannounced inspections of the facility; and

12 (ii) The person authorized to arrange for the final disposition of the  
13 body under § 5–509 of this subtitle:

14 1. Has given written permission for the body to be  
15 transported to the facility; or

16 2. A. Has given oral permission for the body to be  
17 transported to the facility; and

18 B. Within 36 hours after giving oral permission, provides  
19 written verification of the oral permission.

20 5–514.

21 (a) An individual may not bury or dispose of a body except:

22 (1) In a family burial plot or other area allowed by a local ordinance;

23 (2) In a crematory;

24 (3) In a cemetery;

25 (4) **IN A REDUCTION FACILITY;**

26 (5) By donating the body to medical science; or

27 ~~(5)~~ (6) By removing the body to another state for final disposition in  
28 accordance with the laws of the other state.

29 (B) **A PERSON MAY NOT USE OR DISPOSE OF SOIL REMAINS PRODUCED BY**  
30 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION:**

1           **(1) ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT THE PRIOR**  
2 **WRITTEN PERMISSION OF:**

3                   **(I) THE OWNER OF THE PUBLIC PROPERTY;**

4                   **(II) THE SURVIVING OWNERS OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY; OR**

5                   **(III) IF THE DECEDENT WAS SOLE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY AT**  
6 **DEATH, THE AUTHORIZING AGENT;**

7           **(2) BY USING THE SOIL TO GROW FOOD FOR CONSUMPTION BY**  
8 **HUMANS OR LIVESTOCK;**

9           **(3) BY SELLING OR RESELLING THE SOIL TO A THIRD PARTY; OR**

10           **(4) BY COMBINING OR INCORPORATING THE SOIL INTO COMPOST**  
11 **OFFERED FOR SALE TO CONSUMERS OR FOR COMMERCIAL OR AGRICULTURAL**  
12 **PURCHASERS.**

13           **(C) UNLESS A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CEMETERY HAS OTHERWISE**  
14 **AGREED IN WRITING, A REDUCTION FACILITY THAT PRODUCES SOIL REMAINS IS**  
15 **RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING FOR THE FINAL DISPOSITION AND DISPOSAL OF THE**  
16 **SOIL REMAINS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WRITTEN DIRECTION GIVEN BY AN**  
17 **AUTHORIZING AGENT.**

18           **(D) EXCEPT FOR ACTS OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESS DISREGARD OF**  
19 **THE PROHIBITIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PRACTITIONER OR**  
20 **REDUCTION FACILITY OPERATOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR:**

21                   **(1) TRANSFERRING POSSESSION OF SOIL REMAINS AT A REDUCTION**  
22 **FACILITY; OR**

23                   **(2) DELIVERING SOIL REMAINS TO ANOTHER LOCATION ACCORDING**  
24 **TO THE WRITTEN DIRECTION PROVIDED BY AN AUTHORIZING AGENT.**

25           **[(b)] (E)** An individual who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and  
26 on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not exceeding \$5,000  
27 or both.

## 28                                   **Article – Health Occupations**

29           7–101.

30           (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

1           **(A-1) “ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
2 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

3           (c-1) “Authorizing agent” means the individual who has legal authority to arrange  
4 for and make decisions regarding the final disposition of a dead human body, including by  
5 cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

6           (h) “Cremation” means [the process of reducing human remains to bone  
7 fragments through intense heat and evaporation, including any mechanical or thermal  
8 process] **DISPOSITION OF A DEAD HUMAN BODY BY MEANS OF INCINERATION.**

9           (i) “Crematory” means a building, portion of a building, or structure that houses  
10 the necessary appliances and facilities for cremation **OR ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS.**

11           (l)     (1)     “Human remains” means:

12                             (i)     The body of a deceased person; or

13                             (ii)    A part of a body or limb that has been removed from a living  
14 person.

15                             (2)    “Human remains” includes the body or part of a body or limb in any  
16 state of decomposition.

17                             **(3) “HUMAN REMAINS” DOES NOT INCLUDE SOIL REMAINS**  
18 **PRODUCED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

19           **(L-1) “HYDROLYZED REMAINS” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
20 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

21           **(S-1) “NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
22 **5-101 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

23           (t)     (1)     “Practice funeral direction” means:

24                             (i)     To operate a funeral establishment;

25                             (ii)    For compensation, to prepare a dead human body for disposition;  
26 or

27                             (iii)   For compensation, to arrange for or make final disposition of a  
28 dead human body.

29                             (2)    “Practice funeral direction” does not include:

1 (i) For compensation, disinfecting or preserving a dead human body  
2 or any of its parts by arterial or cavity injection or any other type of preservation; or

3 (ii) The business of operating a crematory **OR REDUCTION**  
4 **FACILITY.**

5 (u) (1) “Practice mortuary science” means:

6 (i) To operate a funeral establishment;

7 (ii) For compensation, to prepare a dead human body for disposition;  
8 or

9 (iii) For compensation, to arrange for or make final disposition of a  
10 dead human body.

11 (2) “Practice mortuary science” includes:

12 (i) The practice of funeral direction; and

13 (ii) Disinfecting or preserving a dead human body or any of its parts  
14 by arterial or cavity injection.

15 (3) “Practice mortuary science” does not include:

16 (i) The pickup, removal, or transportation of a dead human body, if  
17 the unlicensed individual is acting under the direction of a licensed mortician or funeral  
18 director; or

19 (ii) The business of operating a crematory **OR REDUCTION**  
20 **FACILITY.**

21 **(V-1) “REDUCTION FACILITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-101 OF THE**  
22 **BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

23 **(V-2) “REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**  
24 **5-101 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE.**

25 7-102.

26 (a) This title does not limit the right of an individual to practice a health  
27 occupation that the individual is authorized to practice under this article.

28 (b) (1) In this subsection, “registrant or permit holder” means a person  
29 regulated under Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article as a registered cemeterian,

1 **REGISTERED REDUCTION OPERATOR**, registered seller, or holder of a permit to operate  
2 a cemetery, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or burial goods business.

3 (2) This title does not apply to:

4 (i) The business of operating a cemetery, including the sale of  
5 cemetery lots, grave sites, mausoleums, monuments, lawn crypts, or vaults;

6 (ii) The ownership of a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** or the  
7 business of operating a crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** in which:

8 1. A registrant or permit holder owns a greater percentage of  
9 the crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY** than a person licensed under this title;

10 2. Ownership is equal between a registrant or permit holder  
11 and a person licensed under this title; or

12 3. Neither a registrant, permit holder, or person licensed  
13 under this title has an ownership interest in the crematory **OR REDUCTION FACILITY**; or

14 (iii) The ownership of a crematory or the business of operating a  
15 crematory or incinerator at a licensed medical facility or educational institution.

16 7-205.

17 (c) In conjunction with the Office of Cemetery Oversight, the Board shall:

18 (1) Establish a process for regulating crematories **AND REDUCTION**  
19 **FACILITIES** that provides for:

20 (i) Registration of crematory operators **AND REDUCTION**  
21 **OPERATORS** or issuance of permits for operating crematories **AND REDUCTION**  
22 **FACILITIES**, and renewal;

23 (ii) Applications, including certification of ownership and  
24 identification of individuals who will perform cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR**  
25 **NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION**;

26 (iii) Registration or permit fees;

27 (iv) Inspections and oversight;

28 (v) Grounds for discipline and penalties; and

29 (vi) Complaints and hearings; and



1           (2) Adopt regulations that are identical to regulations adopted by the  
2 Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight to:

3                   (i) Implement item (1) of this subsection; and

4                   (ii) Ensure public health and safety.

5 7–406.

6           (a) A licensee shall maintain a complete file [of a] **FOR EACH** cremation **AND**  
7 **EACH ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION THAT IS INITIATED**  
8 that includes the signature of the next of kin, person identifying the body, or person  
9 responsible for disposition, time of death, and the date and time of cremation **OR THE TIME**  
10 **THAT THE ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION WAS**  
11 **INITIATED.**

12           (b) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings  
13 indicated.

14                   (ii) “Eligible dependent” means a veteran’s spouse, a veteran’s  
15 unmarried child under the age of 21 years, or a veteran’s unmarried adult child who before  
16 the age of 21 became permanently incapable of self–support because of physical or mental  
17 disability.

18                   (iii) 1. “Identifying information” means data required by a  
19 veterans service organization to verify the eligibility of a veteran or an eligible dependent  
20 for burial in a national or state veterans cemetery.

21                                   2. “Identifying information” includes name, service number,  
22 Social Security number, date of birth, date of death, place of birth, and copy of the death  
23 certificate.

24                   (iv) “Veteran” has the meaning stated in § 9–901 of the State  
25 Government Article.

26                   (v) “Veterans service organization” means an association or other  
27 entity organized for the benefit of veterans that has been recognized by the U.S.  
28 Department of Veterans Affairs or chartered by Congress and any employee or  
29 representative of the association or entity.

30           (2) **(I)** If a licensed funeral establishment [or], a crematory, **OR A**  
31 **REDUCTION FACILITY** is in possession of cremated human remains **OR HYDROLYZED**  
32 **REMAINS** that have been unclaimed for 90 days or more, the licensed funeral establishment  
33 or holder of the permit for the business of operating a crematory shall provide identifying  
34 information of the unclaimed cremains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS** to a veterans service

1 organization in order for the veterans service organization to determine if the unclaimed  
2 cremains are those of a veteran or an eligible dependent.

3 (II) 1. SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH DOES  
4 NOT APPLY IF:

5 A. AN AUTHORIZING AGENT DIRECTS OTHERWISE; OR

6 B. A LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR  
7 REDUCTION FACILITY REASONABLY CONCLUDES BASED ON THE IDENTIFYING  
8 INFORMATION OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT A DECEDENT DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR  
9 DISPOSITION BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH VETERAN STATUS.

10 2. A LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR  
11 REDUCTION FACILITY IN POSSESSION OF HUMAN REMAINS THAT ARE BEING  
12 PROCESSED BY NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION SHALL PROVIDE IDENTIFYING  
13 INFORMATION TO A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS  
14 AFTER NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION IS INITIATED TO DETERMINE IF THE SOIL  
15 REMAINS ARE THOSE OF A VETERAN OR AN ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT.

16 (3) Within 45 days after receipt of the information required under  
17 paragraph (2) of this subsection, the veterans service organization shall notify the licensed  
18 funeral establishment [or], permit holder, OR REDUCTION FACILITY:

19 (i) Whether the cremains, HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR SOIL  
20 REMAINS are those of a veteran or an eligible dependent; and

21 (ii) If so, whether the veteran or eligible dependent is eligible for  
22 burial in a veterans cemetery.

23 (4) If the unclaimed cremains OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS are those of a  
24 veteran or an eligible dependent, the licensed funeral establishment or permit holder may  
25 transfer the cremains OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS to a veterans service organization for  
26 the purpose of the appropriate disposition of the cremains OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS.

27 (5) IF THE UNCLAIMED SOIL REMAINS ARE THOSE OF A VETERAN OR  
28 ELIGIBLE DEPENDENT, THE LICENSED FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR REDUCTION  
29 FACILITY MAY:

30 (I) TRANSFER A PORTION OF THE SOIL REMAINS NOT  
31 EXCEEDING 300 CUBIC INCHES IN VOLUME TO A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION  
32 THAT GRANTS PERMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSITION; AND

1                   **(II) IF AUTHORIZED, TRANSFER THE BALANCE OF THE SOIL**  
2 **REMAINS TO A CEMETERY OR THE OWNER OF A WOODLAND PROTECTED UNDER THE**  
3 **FOREST CONSERVATION ACT.**

4                   **[(5)] (6)** If a veterans service organization does not take possession of  
5 unclaimed cremains **OR HYDROLYZED REMAINS OR THE PORTION OF UNCLAIMED SOIL**  
6 **REMAINS** that qualify for a plot in a State veterans' cemetery under § 9–906 of the State  
7 Government Article within 10 days after the licensed funeral establishment, **REDUCTION**  
8 **FACILITY**, or permit holder receives the notification required under paragraph (3) of this  
9 subsection, the licensed funeral establishment, **REDUCTION FACILITY**, or permit holder  
10 shall:

11                   (i) Notify the Department of Veterans Affairs of the status of the  
12 cremains, **HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR PORTION OF SOIL REMAINS** for the purpose of  
13 the appropriate disposition of the cremains, **HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR PORTION OF**  
14 **SOIL REMAINS; [and]**

15                   (ii) Transfer the cremains, **HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR PORTION**  
16 **OF SOIL REMAINS** to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of the appropriate  
17 disposition of the cremains, **HYDROLYZED REMAINS, OR PORTION OF SOIL REMAINS;**  
18 **AND**

19                   **(III) IF AUTHORIZED, TRANSFER THE BALANCE OF THE SOIL**  
20 **REMAINS TO A CEMETERY OR THE OWNER OF A WOODLAND PROTECTED UNDER THE**  
21 **FOREST CONSERVATION ACT.**

22 7–505.

23 A licensee or the agent of a licensee may not represent that a burial or funeral casket  
24 is required for cremation, **ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS, OR NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2024.