



MARYLAND STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENATE BILL 917

Transport of a Body After Anatomical Gift-Fees-Prohibition

Position of MD State Funeral Directors Association (MSFDA): **OPPOSED**

- SB 917 prohibits any fee or charge for removal and transportation of a deceased who donated his or her body as an anatomical gift, if the deceased's custodian is indigent or medically indigent.
- This will prohibit any funeral home from charging a fee to the "deceased's custodian", in any case of removal of a body to a funeral home or crematory, or any other place, if the body was used as an anatomical gift, and if the "deceased's custodian" is "indigent" or "medically indigent".
- There are many problems with this bill which render it incomprehensible; The "deceased's custodian" is undefined; who is "indigent" is undefined; who is "medically indigent" is undefined; who makes any of those determinations, and on what basis and standards, and at what time, are not set out; how any of these determinations are made is not set out.
- But the even bigger problem with the bill is the consequence it will cause to transportation of bodies used for anatomical gifts; the logical expectation is that transportation of such bodies by funeral homes would essentially cease, as very few, if any, funeral homes would likely provide a removal and transportation service for free; the result will be that agencies that perform organ donations will have a backup of bodies that they will be required to transport themselves, even assuming they are able to do so.
- SB 917 should be given an unfavorable report.
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