



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

**Maryland Board of Morticians and  
Funeral Directors**  
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February 24, 2021

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair, Health and Government Affairs Committee  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: HB 604 – Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Remains of Veterans  
Notification, Disposition, and Reporting – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Pendergrass,

The State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors (the “Board”) is submitting this letter of Support for HB 604 – Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Remains of Veterans Notification, Disposition, and Reporting.

The Board supports the current language in HB 604, noting the importance of the duties and responsibilities to the veteran service members. The Board has oversight of licensed funeral establishments and certain permit holders related to mortuary science. As a result, the Board is entrusted with the duty of ensuring that the licensed funeral establishments and certain permit holders are properly carrying out their duties of unclaimed cremains--and in this case, cremated remains of veteran service members. HB 604 establishes proper tracking of cremated remains to ensure final disposition for our veterans by giving them a proper and dignified burial. Therefore, the Board unanimously supports HB 604, and would equally support a cross filed Senate Bill.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Christy Collins, Executive Director at (410) 764-4714 or [christy.collins@maryland.gov](mailto:christy.collins@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mark Bailey*

Dr. Mark E. Bailey, CT, CFSP  
President, Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

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