



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 1028

Human Remains - Alkaline Hydrolysis and Natural Organic Reduction (Green Death Care Options Act)

Date: March 5, 2024

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1028, which would establish a regulatory framework to permit Marylanders to choose more environmentally-friendly forms of death care.

Traditional burial methods are a contributing source to adverse water quality impacts. Embalming chemicals can leach into the ground after burial and eventually into waterways. Cremation produces carbon dioxide emissions, impacting air quality. The bill would permit Marylanders the additional choices of alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction as death care options, setting appropriate oversight and standards for both practices.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 1028.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.