

# HOUSE BILL 540

J1, J2

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CF SB 415

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By: **Delegate Reznik (By Request – State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors) and Delegates Waldstreicher, Carr, Elliott, Feldman, Frank, Frush, Gaines, Hubbard, Kipke, McDonough, McHale, Smigiel, and Sophocleus**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2012

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Handling Human Remains with Dignity Act of 2012**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a funeral establishment or crematory, on taking custody  
4 of the body of a decedent in accordance with all authorizations required by law,  
5 to maintain the body in a certain manner; requiring a funeral establishment or  
6 crematory to maintain the body of a decedent with refrigeration and at a certain  
7 temperature under certain circumstances; requiring a funeral establishment or  
8 a crematory to notify the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors or the  
9 Office of Cemetery Oversight and a certain other person if the funeral  
10 establishment or crematory cannot comply with certain provisions of this Act;  
11 specifying that a certain notice must be given within a certain time period and  
12 include certain information; prohibiting the body of a decedent from being  
13 embalmed or artificially preserved except under certain circumstances;  
14 requiring a funeral establishment or crematory to store the body of a decedent  
15 at a specified location; prohibiting a funeral establishment, crematory, or  
16 transportation service from transporting or storing the body of a decedent  
17 together with certain other remains; prohibiting the body of a decedent, while in  
18 the custody of a funeral establishment or crematory, from being transported to a  
19 certain facility except under certain circumstances; authorizing the ~~Board~~ State  
20 Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors and the Office of Cemetery  
21 Oversight to take certain disciplinary action against a licensee or permit holder

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 who fails to comply with certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to  
2 the transportation and storage of bodies of decedents.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
4 Article – Business Regulation  
5 Section 5–101(a) and (g)  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Business Regulation  
10 Section 5–310(a)(11) and (12)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Business Regulation  
15 Section 5–310(a)(13)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Health – General  
20 Section 5–513  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
24 Article – Health Occupations  
25 Section 7–101(a) and (d)  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

28 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
29 Article – Health Occupations  
30 Section 7–316(a)(30) and (31)  
31 Annotated Code of Maryland  
32 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

33 BY adding to  
34 Article – Health Occupations  
35 Section 7–316(a)(32)  
36 Annotated Code of Maryland  
37 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

5–101.

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

(g) “Director” means the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight.

5–310.

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

(11) fails to comply with any terms of settlement under a binding arbitration agreement; [or]

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

(13) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH § 5–513 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.

Article – Health – General

**5–513.**

**(A) ON TAKING CUSTODY OF THE BODY OF A DECEDENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL AUTHORIZATIONS REQUIRED BY LAW, A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY SHALL MAINTAIN THE BODY IN A MANNER THAT PROVIDES FOR COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE BODY AND PREVENTS LEAKAGE OR SPILLAGE EXCEPT DURING:**

**(1) IDENTIFICATION, EMBALMING, OR PREPARATION OF AN UNEMBALMED BODY FOR FINAL DISPOSITION;**

**(2) RESTORATION AND DRESSING OF A BODY IN PREPARATION FOR FINAL DISPOSITION; AND**

**(3) VIEWING DURING A VISITATION OR FUNERAL SERVICE.**

**(B) IF THE UNEMBALMED BODY OF A DECEDENT IS TO BE STORED FOR MORE THAN ~~72~~ 48 HOURS BEFORE FINAL DISPOSITION, A FUNERAL**

1 ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY SHALL MAINTAIN THE BODY WITH  
2 REFRIGERATION AND AT A TEMPERATURE ~~LOWER THAN 44 DEGREES~~  
3 ~~FAHRENHEIT~~ DETERMINED BY REGULATION.

4 (C) (1) IF A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY CANNOT  
5 SECURE THE BODY OF A DECEDENT OR CANNOT STORE THE BODY AS REQUIRED  
6 IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION DUE TO AN UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE,  
7 THE FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY SHALL NOTIFY THE STATE  
8 BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS OR THE OFFICE OF  
9 CEMETERY OVERSIGHT AND THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE FOR THE  
10 FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE BODY UNDER § 5-509 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (2) THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
12 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

13 (I) BE MADE WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE OCCURRENCE  
14 OF THE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE; AND

15 (II) INCLUDE THE NAME AND LOCATION OF THE FACILITY  
16 WHERE THE BODY IS BEING TRANSFERRED, THE REASON FOR THE TRANSFER,  
17 AND THE METHOD OF STORAGE.

18 (D) THE BODY OF A DECEDENT MAY NOT BE EMBALMED OR  
19 ARTIFICIALLY PRESERVED WITHOUT:

20 (1) THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO  
21 ARRANGE FOR THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE BODY UNDER § 5-509 OF THIS  
22 SUBTITLE; OR

23 (2) A COURT ORDER.

24 (E) A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY SHALL STORE THE  
25 BODY OF A DECEDENT UNTIL FINAL DISPOSITION AT ~~A LOCATION APPROVED BY~~  
26 ~~THE STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS FOR THAT~~  
27 ~~FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY;~~

28 (1) A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENSED UNDER TITLE 7 OF  
29 THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE;

30 (2) A CREMATORY LICENSED UNDER TITLE 7 OF THE HEALTH  
31 OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE;

32 (3) A CREMATORY PERMITTED UNDER TITLE 5 OF THE BUSINESS  
33 REGULATION ARTICLE; OR

1           **(4) ANOTHER FACILITY THAT HAS PASSED AN INSPECTION WITH**  
2 **THE STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS OR THE OFFICE**  
3 **OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT WITHIN THE PAST 2 YEARS.**

4           **(F) A FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT, CREMATORY, OR TRANSPORTATION**  
5 **SERVICE MAY NOT TRANSPORT OR STORE THE BODY OF A DECEDENT TOGETHER**  
6 **WITH ANIMAL REMAINS IN THE SAME CONFINED SPACE.**

7           **(G) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
8 **SUBSECTION, WHILE THE BODY OF A DECEDENT IS IN THE CUSTODY OF A**  
9 **FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT OR CREMATORY IN THE STATE, THE BODY MAY NOT**  
10 **BE TRANSPORTED FOR PREPARATION OR STORAGE TO A FACILITY THAT IS NOT**  
11 **WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE ~~OR~~, LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD**  
12 **OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS, OR PERMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF**  
13 **CEMETERY OVERSIGHT.**

14           **(2) THE BODY OF A DECEDENT MAY BE TRANSPORTED FOR**  
15 **PREPARATION OR STORAGE TO A FACILITY THAT IS NOT WITHIN THE**  
16 **JURISDICTION OF THE STATE ~~OR~~, LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF**  
17 **MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS, OR PERMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF**  
18 **CEMETERY OVERSIGHT IF:**

19           **(I) THE FACILITY HAS ENTERED INTO A WRITTEN**  
20 **AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL**  
21 **DIRECTORS OR THE OFFICE OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT TO ALLOW THE STATE**  
22 **TO MAKE UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS OF THE FACILITY; AND**

23           **(II) THE PERSON AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE FOR THE FINAL**  
24 **DISPOSITION OF THE BODY UNDER § 5-509 OF THIS SUBTITLE ~~HAS:~~**

25                   **1. HAS GIVEN WRITTEN PERMISSION FOR THE BODY**  
26 **TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE FACILITY; OR**

27                   **2. A. HAS GIVEN ORAL PERMISSION FOR THE**  
28 **BODY TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE FACILITY; AND**

29                           **B. WITHIN 36 HOURS AFTER GIVING ORAL**  
30 **PERMISSION, PROVIDES WRITTEN VERIFICATION OF THE ORAL PERMISSION.**

31                           **Article – Health Occupations**

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

2 (d) "Board" means the Maryland State Board of Morticians and Funeral  
3 Directors.

4 7-316.

5 (a) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 7-319 of this subtitle and except as  
6 to a funeral establishment license, the Board may deny a license to any applicant,  
7 reprimand any licensee, place any licensee on probation, or suspend or revoke any  
8 license if the applicant or licensee:

9 (30) Fails to comply with inspection requirements in the time specified  
10 by the Board; [or]

11 (31) Fails to provide the Board the certification required under §  
12 7-405(i) of this title; **OR**

13 **(32) FAILS TO COMPLY WITH § 5-513 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL**  
14 **ARTICLE.**

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 October 1, 2012.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.