

SENATE BILL 510

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6lr2489

By: Senator West

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors – Funeral Direction Licensure**
3 **and Apprentices – Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the education requirements an individual must meet to
5 practice funeral direction or as a licensed apprentice; prohibiting the practical
6 examination qualification required for a license to practice funeral direction from
7 including a practical examination demonstrating competency in the preparation of
8 dead human bodies for a certain purpose; and generally relating to the State Board
9 of Morticians and Funeral Directors.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Health Occupations

12 Section 7–101(a) and (d)

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article – Health Occupations

17 Section 7–303 and 7–306(d)(1)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health Occupations**

23 7–101.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) "Board" means the State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors.

2 7-303.

3 (a) (1) The Board shall determine the qualifications necessary for an
4 individual to lawfully engage in the practice of mortuary science or funeral direction and
5 to operate a funeral establishment within this State.

6 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, to qualify for a mortician
7 or funeral director license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements
8 of this section.

9 (b) The Board shall examine all applications for licensure for the practice of
10 mortuary science or funeral direction and shall issue the mortician or funeral director
11 license to an individual who:

12 (1) Is judged to be of good moral character;

13 (2) Has completed not less than 1 year and not more than 4 years of
14 licensed apprenticeship, unless the Board allowed extensions for additional 1-year terms;

15 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this section[, has graduated]:

16 **(I) FOR AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR A LICENSE TO**
17 **PRACTICE AS A MORTICIAN, HAS:**

18 1. **A. GRADUATED** with an associate of arts degree in
19 mortuary science or its equivalent from a school accredited by the American Board of
20 Funeral Service Education or approved by the Board[,]; or [has acquired]

21 **B. ACQUIRED** at least an associate of arts degree and
22 completed a course in mortuary science that is accredited by the American Board of Funeral
23 Service Education or approved by the Board; **AND**

24 [(4)] 2. [For an individual applying for a license to practice as a
25 mortician, passed] **PASSED** the national board examination administered by the
26 Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards of the United States; **OR**

27 **(II) 1. FOR AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR A LICENSE TO**
28 **PRACTICE AS A FUNERAL DIRECTOR, HAS:**

29 **A. GRADUATED WITH AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE IN**
30 **MORTUARY SCIENCE OR ITS EQUIVALENT FROM A SCHOOL ACCREDITED BY THE**
31 **AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION; OR**

1 **B. SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,**
2 **ACQUIRED AT LEAST AN ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE AND COMPLETED A COURSE IN**
3 **MORTUARY SCIENCE THAT IS ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL**
4 **SERVICE EDUCATION; AND**

5 [(5)] **2.** [For an individual applying for a license to practice as a
6 funeral director, passed the arts and sciences State board examinations,] **PASSED THE**
7 **NATIONAL BOARD EXAMINATION** administered by the Conference of Funeral Service
8 Examining Boards of the United States;

9 [(6)] **(4)** Except as provided in subsection [(c)] **(D)** of this section, has
10 passed a written examination on Maryland law and regulations governing the practice of
11 mortuary science and a practical examination demonstrating competency in the
12 preparation of dead human bodies for final disposition and sanitary science; and

13 [(7)] **(5)** Has submitted an application to the Board on the required form
14 and has paid a fee set by the Board.

15 **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN ASSOCIATE**
16 **OF ARTS DEGREE UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3)(II)1B OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE**
17 **A MINIMUM OF 60 CREDIT HOURS OR THE EQUIVALENT OF CREDIT HOURS IN**
18 **COURSES RELEVANT TO THE PRACTICE OF A FUNERAL DIRECTOR; AND**

19 **(2) A MINIMUM OF 30 CREDIT HOURS OF THE HOURS REQUIRED**
20 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MUST BE IN A PROGRAM APPROVED BY**
21 **THE BOARD.**

22 [(c)] **(D)** For an individual applying for a license to practice funeral direction,
23 the practical examination qualification under subsection [(b)(6)] **(B)(4)** of this section may
24 not include [demonstrating]:

25 **(1) A PRACTICAL EXAMINATION DEMONSTRATING COMPETENCY IN**
26 **THE PREPARATION OF DEAD HUMAN BODIES FOR FINAL DISPOSITION AND SANITARY**
27 **SCIENCE; OR**

28 **(2) DEMONSTRATING** competency in embalming.

29 [(d)] **(E)** The Board shall advise each applicant that a license issued under
30 subsection (b) of this section does not guarantee that the applicant will be allowed to
31 practice in any other state.

32 7–306.

33 (d) (1) (i) Before an individual appears before the Board for approval of an
34 apprentice license:

1 **1. TO ASSIST A LICENSED MORTICIAN IN THE PRACTICE**
2 **OF MORTUARY SCIENCE**, the individual shall be enrolled in or have graduated from a
3 mortuary science program at a school accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service
4 **EDUCATION** or approved by the Board, with a 2.0 grade point average or higher that is
5 verified with a certified copy of the college transcript, if the individual has a grade point
6 average; **OR**

7 **2. TO ASSIST A LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR IN THE**
8 **PRACTICE OF FUNERAL DIRECTION, THE INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ENROLLED IN OR**
9 **HAVE GRADUATED FROM A MORTUARY SCIENCE PROGRAM AT A SCHOOL**
10 **ACCREDITED BY THE AMERICAN BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EDUCATION OR**
11 **APPROVED BY THE BOARD.**

12 (ii) A licensed apprentice who was enrolled in a mortuary science
13 program at the time the license was granted shall remain enrolled in the program for the
14 duration of the apprenticeship unless the licensed apprentice graduates.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2026.