

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is subject to a fine of not more than \$500.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved May 22, 1997.

CHAPTER 675

(House Bill 559)

AN ACT concerning

~~Office of Cemetery Oversight~~
Death Care Industry Regulation

FOR the purpose of creating the Office of Cemetery Oversight in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; requiring the Secretary of State ~~the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation~~ to establish ~~an~~ *a certain* advisory board council; specifying the membership of the advisory board council; ~~providing for the terms of the members of the advisory council;~~ providing for a Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight; providing for the powers and duties of the ~~director~~ Director; ~~authorizing the director to establish certain rules and fees;~~ ~~authorizing the Director to adopt certain regulations and establish certain fees;~~ requiring the Director to adopt certain regulations and establish certain fees; establishing a Cemetery Oversight Fund; specifying the use of the Fund; requiring registration in order to engage in the operation of a cemetery or in order to provide burial goods in this State; ~~providing certain exceptions;~~ ~~providing~~ *establishing certain* registration criteria; providing for the renewal of registration; providing for the denial of a registration or reprimand of a registrant ~~or and for the denial of a permit for a permit holder or reprimand of a permit holder~~ under certain circumstances; ~~providing for the suspension or revocation of a registrant or a permit holder registration or a permit~~ under certain circumstances; providing certain hearing procedures under certain circumstances; requiring a permit in order to engage in the operation of a cemetery or burial goods business as a corporation, limited liability company, or partnership; ~~providing~~ *establishing certain* permit criteria; requiring registrants and permit holders to make certain disclosures when entering into certain contracts; ~~providing~~ *requiring certain persons that are exempt from registration or permitting to file certain statements with the Office of Cemetery Oversight;* ~~providing that certain registrants and permit holders in Baltimore County may buy, hold, or use, for burial a certain number of acres on a certain tract;~~ *establishing certain penalties for practicing without a registration, providing services without a permit, and misrepresentation; altering certain definitions; specifying a reporting requirement for certain sellers of preneed contracts; altering certain trust and escrow requirements for certain sellers of certain preneed goods and services;* providing for the evaluation and termination of the Office of Cemetery Oversight; ~~providing certain conforming changes in~~