1997 LAWS OF MARYLAND

CEMETERY OVERSIGHT ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 5 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE AND THE REGULATIONS THAT RELATE TO THE OFFICE OF CEMETERY OVERSIGHT.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Director of the Office of Cemetery Oversight shall:

- (1) In conjunction with the State Board of Morticians, conduct a study to determine the feasibility of combining the Office of Cemetery Oversight and the State Board of Morticians;
 - (2) Conduct a study regarding the illegal recycling of graves;
 - (3) Conduct a study regarding the historic preservation of graves; and
 - (4) Inventory all known burial sites in the State;
- (4) (5) Issue Subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, issue findings and recommendations of the studies to the General Assembly by July 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That the Office of Cemetery Oversight shall document any complaints received between the effective date of this Act and December 31, 1999, concerning the bona fide, religious, nonprofit cemeteries that are not subject to regulation under this Act and report to the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee on or before January 31, 2000, in accordance with § 2 1312 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 5. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the requirement under § 5-201 of the Business Regulation Article that the members of the Advisory Council on Cemetery Operations who represent nonreligious cemeteries be registered cemeterians and that the individual representing a monument company be a registered seller does not apply to individuals who fill these positions during the first year of the Council's existence.

SECTION 6. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the terms of the initial members of the Advisory Council shall expire as follows:

- (1) four members in 2000;
- (2) four members in 2001; and
- (3) three members in 2002.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to:

- (1) Any preneed burial contract or pre-need contract entered into before the effective date of this Act; or
- (2) Any noncorporate entity that was not subject to § 5–501 or § 5–502 before the effective date of this Act.