General Law Committee
JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-848
Title: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNERAL SERVICE CONTRACTS AND CEMETERIES.
Vote Date: 3/5/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable
PH Date: 2/19/2019
File No.: 76

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

REASONS FOR BILL:
This bill would allow the pre-selling of space in a mausoleum or columbarium niche that are under construction. This would give families who are interested in such accommodations peace of mind for themselves and perhaps future generations, as the project would be pre-approved.
The bill would also remove the dollar cap of $8,000 on irrevocable funeral service contracts without impacting a resident’s Medicaid eligibility. Often families are left with a balance due or given the task of deciding what service items will be eliminated from their loved one’s funeral. This would eliminate the cap and would remove the burden of those decisions.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Pinone, John, Executive Director, Catholic Cemeteries Association:
This bill would allow for the sale of mausoleum or columbarium niche before the completion of construction. The space would not be sold until the project is approved, which would provide families with comfort knowing the space is available. All monies collected will be
placed into an interest bearing account under DCP guidelines and held until construction is complete. The contract will also include that there will be no cost to the family for disentombment and re-entombment if death of the family member happens before the completion of the facility.

**Paquette, Nicole, Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Connecticut Funeral Directors Association:**
Section 1 of this bill would remove the $8,000 cap for irrevocable funeral service contract this would eliminate the burden of additional costs or having to eliminate services of a funeral for family members during a time of extreme duress. Forty two other states, including the entire Northeast and all of the other New England states do not impose a dollar cap on an irrevocable funeral service contract.

**SCI-CT:**
SCI-CT currently owns and operates 23 funeral homes across the state and has a long history of serving CT residents. By removing the $8,000 cap on irrevocable funeral service contracts it would allow individuals better pre-plan their funerals based on religious beliefs, cultural wishes and budgets.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**
None Expressed

**Reported by:** Bonnie Gray, Asst. Clerk  
**Date:** 03/8/2019