



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 39

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6485

House of Representatives, March 9, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) (1) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (A) "Cemetery corporation" means any corporation formed for the
4 disposal or burial of deceased human beings, by cremation, natural
5 organic reduction or in a grave, mausoleum, vault, columbarium or
6 other receptacle but does not include a family cemetery corporation or
7 a private cemetery corporation. "Cemetery corporation" includes any
8 cemetery, crematory or funeral home;

9 (B) "Holding facility" or "temporary storage area" means any area that
10 (i) is designated for the retention of human remains prior to cremation
11 or natural organic reduction; (ii) complies with all applicable public
12 health laws, (iii) preserves the health and safety of the crematory or
13 natural organic reduction facility personnel; and (iv) is secure from
14 access by anyone other than authorized persons, with the interior of

15 such area not visible from any area accessible to the general public;

16 (C) "Natural organic reduction permit" means the permit required by
17 the Commissioner of Public Health for disposition of the remains of a
18 deceased human being by natural organic reduction;

19 (D) "Natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated
20 conversion of human remains to soil; and

21 (E) "Natural organic reduction facility" means a structure, room or
22 other space in a building or real property where natural organic
23 reduction of a human body occurs.

24 (2) Any cemetery corporation that operates a natural organic
25 reduction facility shall have the following duties and obligations: (A)
26 Each natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained in a clean,
27 orderly and sanitary manner, with adequate ventilation and shall have
28 a temporary storage area available to store the remains of deceased
29 persons pending disposition by natural organic reduction, the interior
30 of which shall not be accessible to the general public; (B) entrances and
31 windows of any natural organic reduction facility shall be maintained
32 at all times in order to secure privacy, including the tight closure of
33 doors, the covering of windows and the provision of locked and secured
34 entrances when not actively attended by authorized natural reduction
35 facility personnel; (C) the natural organic reduction process shall be
36 conducted in privacy and no person except authorized persons of such
37 facility shall be admitted into the reduction area, holding facility or the
38 temporary storage area while the remains of deceased human beings are
39 being naturally organically reduced; and (D) authorized persons, on
40 admittance, shall comply with all rules of the cemetery corporation and
41 not infringe upon the privacy of the remains of any deceased person.
42 For the purposes of this section, "authorized persons" includes (i)
43 licensed, registered funeral directors, registered residents and enrolled
44 students of mortuary science; (ii) officers and trustees of the cemetery
45 corporation; (iii) authorized employees and authorized agents of the
46 cemetery corporation; (iv) public officers acting in the discharge of their
47 duties; (v) authorized instructors of funeral directing schools; (vi)

48 licensed physicians or nurses; and (vii) members of the immediate
49 family of the deceased person and authorized agents and designated
50 representatives of such immediate family members.

51 (b) No natural organic reduction facility shall naturally organically
52 reduce the remains of any deceased human being without the
53 accompanying natural organic reduction permit, required and
54 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, which shall constitute
55 presumptive evidence of the identity of the deceased person's remains.
56 A natural organic reduction authorization form, prescribed by the
57 Commissioner of Public Health, shall accompany such permit and shall
58 be signed by the immediate family member or an authorizing agent who
59 shall attest to the permission for the natural organic reduction of the
60 deceased person and disclose to the natural organic reduction facility
61 whether the body of such deceased person contains a battery, battery
62 pack, power cell, radioactive implant or radioactive device or whether
63 any such material was removed from the deceased person's body prior
64 to the natural organic reduction process.

65 (c) The natural organic reduction process shall not commence until
66 reasonable confirmation of the identity of the deceased person is made.
67 Such proof may be in the form of, but not limited to, a signed affidavit
68 from a licensed physician, a member of the immediate family of the
69 deceased person, an authorizing agent or a court order from the
70 Superior Court. The natural organic reduction facility shall ensure that
71 the identification established by the natural organic reduction permit
72 accompanies the remains of the deceased person during the natural
73 organic reduction process and until the identity of the deceased person
74 is accurately and legibly inscribed on the container in which the remains
75 of the deceased person are temporarily placed.

76 (d) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall be delivered to the
77 natural organic reduction facility in an alternative container or in
78 external wrappings sufficient to contain the remains and that is
79 designed to fully decompose in the natural reduction process. Such
80 alternative container or external wrappings shall not be opened after

81 delivery of the deceased person's body to the natural organic reduction
82 facility unless (A) there exists good cause to: (i) Confirm the identity of
83 the deceased person, or (ii) ensure that no material is enclosed that
84 might cause injury to employees of the natural organic reduction facility
85 or damage to property of the natural organic reduction facility; or (B) it
86 is upon the reasonable demand by members of the immediate family or
87 the authorized agent of such immediate family.

88 (2) In any instance in which such alternative container or wrappings
89 are opened after delivery of the deceased person to the natural organic
90 reduction facility, such action shall only be conducted by the licensed
91 funeral director or registered person who delivers the remains of the
92 deceased person. A record shall be made by such natural organic
93 reduction facility, at the time of any such action, that includes the reason
94 for such action, the signature of the person authorizing such action and
95 the names of any person who opens such container or wrappings and
96 the witness to such action. Any such record shall be retained in the
97 permanent files of the natural organic reduction facility. Any such
98 opening of such container or wrappings shall be conducted in the
99 presence of a witness and shall comply with any rule or regulation
100 prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health that is intended to
101 protect the integrity of the deceased person's remains and the health and
102 safety of natural organic reduction facility personnel.

103 (e) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be delivered to
104 a natural organic reduction facility in a casket that is not to be naturally
105 organically reduced with the deceased person, written notice of such
106 fact shall be made by the person responsible for the funeral
107 arrangements of the deceased person to the natural organic reduction
108 facility. Such written notice shall indicate that prior to natural organic
109 reduction, the remains of the deceased person are to be transferred to an
110 alternative container. The natural organic reduction facility shall retain
111 such written notice in the permanent records of such facility.

112 (f) (1) The remains of a deceased person shall not be removed from
113 the casket, alternative container or external wrappings in which they

114 were delivered to the natural organic reduction facility unless a signed
115 authorization is provided by the person responsible for making funeral
116 arrangements for such deceased person or by a public officer
117 discharging his or her statutory duty. Such signed authorization shall
118 be retained in the permanent records of such natural organic reduction
119 facility.

120 (2) Whenever the remains of a deceased person are to be transferred
121 to an alternative container, such transfer shall be conducted in privacy
122 and with dignity and respect for such remains by the licensed funeral
123 director or registered person who delivered such remains. Such transfer
124 shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Department of Public
125 Health that are intended to protect the dignity of the deceased person's
126 remains and the health and safety of the natural organic reduction
127 facility personnel.

128 (g) No person shall commingle or place the naturally organically
129 reduced remains of more than one deceased person in a reduction
130 container at any one time except upon provision of a signed
131 authorization provided by the person responsible for making the
132 funeral arrangements for the deceased person and the signed approval
133 of the natural organic reduction facility. Such authorizations and
134 approvals shall be retained in the permanent records of the natural
135 organic reduction facility.

136 (h) (1) Upon the completion of the natural organic reduction of the
137 remains of a deceased person, the interior of the natural organic
138 reduction container shall be thoroughly swept or otherwise cleaned so
139 as to render the natural organic reduction container reasonably free of
140 all matter. The contents of such reduction container shall be placed into
141 an individual container and not commingled with other remains. The
142 natural organic reduction permit shall be attached to the individual
143 container in preparation for final processing.

144 (2) Use of a magnet and sieve, or other appropriate method of
145 separation, may be used to divide such remains from unrecognizable
146 incidental or foreign material.

147 (3) Any incidental or foreign material of the natural organic reduction
148 process shall be disposed of in a safe manner in compliance with all
149 sanitary rules and regulations of the Commissioner of Public Health for
150 such byproducts.

151 (4) Such remains shall be pulverized until no single fragment is
152 recognizable as skeletal tissue and such pulverized remains shall be
153 transferred to a container or to multiple containers, if so requested in
154 writing by the person responsible for making the funeral arrangements
155 for the deceased person. Any such container shall have inside
156 dimensions of suitable size to contain such naturally organically
157 reduced remains and shall be accurately and legibly labeled with the
158 name of the person whose remains are contained therein, in a manner
159 as prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

160 (i) (1) Upon completion of the natural organic reduction process, the
161 cemetery corporation shall notify the person responsible for making the
162 funeral arrangements for such deceased person that the natural organic
163 reduction process is complete and that the remains are prepared to be
164 disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. The
165 person responsible for making the funeral arrangements for such
166 deceased person shall be responsible for the final disposition of such
167 remains. Such remains shall be disposed of through the scattering of
168 such remains in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery, or
169 by prior authorization by the cemetery corporation, by placing such
170 remains in a grave, crypt or niche, or retention of such remains,
171 pursuant to prior authorization, by the person responsible for making
172 the funeral arrangements for such deceased person. Such remains shall
173 not be recoverable once they are scattered or interred.

174 (2) If, after a period of one hundred twenty days from the date of the
175 completion of the natural organic reduction process, the person
176 responsible for the funeral arrangements for the deceased person has
177 not instructed the cemetery corporation to arrange for the final
178 disposition of the remains or claimed the remains, the cemetery
179 corporation may dispose of such remains in any manner prescribed by

180 this subsection. The cemetery corporation shall keep a permanent
181 record identifying the site of final disposition for any such remains. The
182 person responsible for the funeral arrangements for such deceased
183 person shall be responsible for reimbursing the cemetery corporation
184 for all reasonable expenses incurred for the disposing of such remains
185 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. After the
186 disposition of such remains, the cemetery corporation shall be
187 discharged from any legal obligation or liability concerning the remains.

188 (3) Unless the person responsible for making the funeral
189 arrangements for such deceased person provides written permission, no
190 person shall place remains of more than one person in the same
191 temporary container or urn.

192 (j) Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility who is
193 responsible for conducting the daily operations of the natural organic
194 reduction process shall be certified by an organization approved by the
195 Commissioner of Public Health. Proof of such certification shall be
196 posted in the natural organic reduction facility and available for
197 inspection at any time. Any new employee of a natural organic
198 reduction facility required to be certified pursuant to this subsection
199 shall be certified not later than one year after commencement of such
200 employment. Any employee of a natural organic reduction facility
201 required to be certified pursuant to this subsection and employed by
202 such facility prior to the effective date of this section shall be certified
203 not later than one year after such effective date. Such certification shall
204 be completed every five years from the date of such certification.

205 (k) (1) Any cemetery corporation that seeks approval to operate a
206 natural organic reduction facility shall submit for approval by the
207 Commissioner of Public Health the following:

208 (A) A list of the directors, employees and certificate holders of the
209 cemetery corporation;

210 (B) A certified survey of the site and location where such facility will
211 be located;

212 (C) A business plan for the operation of the natural organic reduction
 213 facility that includes, but is not limited to, the number of expected
 214 natural organic reductions per year, the number of natural organic
 215 reduction containers to be used, all manufacturing, capital costs and
 216 financing, the anticipated number of employees, and the types of
 217 services provided and pricing thereof;

218 (D) A description of the impact of the proposed natural organic
 219 reduction facility on other natural organic reduction facilities, if any,
 220 within the county where such facility is located;

221 (E) Plans, designs and costs of any structures to be erected or
 222 retrofitted for the natural organic reduction facility's use; and

223 (F) A description of any other approvals or permits required by state
 224 law or municipal ordinance.

225 (2) The commissioner shall not approve any natural organic
 226 reduction facility that does not have all other approvals or permits. The
 227 commissioner may request from such applicant any additional
 228 information or documentation and technical assistance deemed
 229 necessary to review such information. Such information shall not be
 230 deemed complete until any requested additional information has been
 231 received by the commissioner. The commissioner shall approve or deny
 232 the proposed natural organic reduction facility not later than ninety
 233 days after completion of the submission of all information by written
 234 notice. If the commissioner denies any application for such a facility,
 235 such written notice shall state the reasons for such denial.

236 (l) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Public Health
 237 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54
 238 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this section. Such
 239 regulations shall take effect not later than January 1, 2024.

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | October 1, 2023 | New section |

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Technical changes were made in subsections (a) to (k), inclusive, for clarity and conformity with standard drafting conventions.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 24 \$ | FY 25 \$ |
|--|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Public Health, Dept. | GF - Cost | 198,175 | 234,718 |
| State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹ | GF - Cost | 68,143 | 98,428 |
| Resources of the General Fund | GF - Revenue Loss | less than 375,00 | less than 375,00 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to develop and provide authorization forms for evidence of the identity of deceased persons to allow the agency to issue permits for the natural organic reduction of bodies, develop regulations for the safe disposal of any incidental or foreign material found during the reduction process, develop and implement natural organic reduction facility ("facility") site review, and establish a certification program for facility employees. It results in an anticipated cost to DPH of \$198,175 in FY 24 and \$234,718 in FY 25, a cost to the Office of the State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits of \$68,143 in FY 24 and \$98,428 in FY 25, and a revenue loss of less than \$375,000 in both fiscal years. FY 24 costs are for a partial fiscal year, as the bill is effective 10/1/23. FY 25 costs are annualized.

DPH costs include three full-time positions, an Environmental Analyst 3, an Environmental Analyst 1, and a Health Program Associate

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 42.82% of payroll in FY 24.

(HPA)², as well as costs associated other expenses, including modification of the Electronic Death Registry System. The Office of the State Comptroller – Fringe Benefits costs support these three positions.

The cost to modify the Electronic Death Registry System is projected to cost \$25,000 in FY 24 only. The cost for equipment and general office supplies is estimated at \$14,038 in FY 24 and \$4,852 in FY 25. It is anticipated that approximately 2,500 bodies will be naturally organically reduced in each fiscal year.

The General Fund revenue loss of less than \$375,000 in both FY 24 and FY 25 is associated with a decrease in the number of cremation certificates issued by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, under the assumption that bodies that would have been cremated in the past may be naturally organically reduced instead. There is currently a \$150 fee for a cremation certificate.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of bodies that are naturally organically reduced, instead of cremated.

²The salaries of the three positions are: \$58,928 in FY 24 and \$85,118 in FY 25 for the Environmental Analyst 3, \$44,764 in FY 24 and \$64,658 in FY 25 for the Environmental Analyst 1, and \$55,446 in FY 24 and \$80,089 in FY 25 for the Health Program Associate. FY 24 costs are for a partial year, as the bill is effective 10/1/23 while FY 25 costs are annualized.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6485*****AN ACT CONCERNING NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows for the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil (“natural organic reduction”) as a process for managing human remains after death.

The bill (1) requires cemetery corporations seeking to operate a natural organic reduction facility to obtain approval from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and (2) establishes specific duties and obligations for corporations operating these facilities. Under the bill, a cemetery corporation is a corporation (i.e., cemeteries, crematories, or funeral homes) formed to dispose of or bury deceased human beings (1) by cremation or natural organic reduction or (2) in a grave, mausoleum, vault, columbarium, or other receptacle. It excludes a family or private cemetery corporation.

The bill prohibits a facility from naturally organically reducing a deceased person’s remains without having a DPH-prescribed permit to do so. It provides (1) methods for identifying remains and (2) procedures for preparing them for reduction and for managing them afterwards. It also specifies disposal options post-reduction such as being scattered in a designated area, placed in a grave, or released to the person responsible for funeral arrangements. Additionally, the bill requires facility employees involved in the daily operations of the reduction process to also be certified.

Lastly, the bill requires the DPH commissioner to adopt regulations by October 1, 2023, to implement the bill’s provisions, which must take effect by January 1, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

CEMETERY CORPORATION DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the bill, cemetery corporations that operate natural organic reduction facilities have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. maintaining the facility in a clean, orderly, and sanitary manner with adequate ventilation, a temporary storage area to store deceased persons' remains awaiting natural organic reduction, and an interior inaccessible to the public;
2. always maintaining entrances and windows to secure privacy, including tight closures for doors, window coverings, and locked and secured entrances when the facility's authorized personnel are not in attendance; and
3. conducting the natural organic reduction process in privacy and only allowing authorized personnel to be in the reduction area, holding facility, or temporary storage facility when human remains are being reduced.

Under the bill, a temporary storage area or a holding facility is any area designed to keep human remains before cremation or natural organic reduction. The area must comply with public health laws, preserve the crematory or reduction facility employees' health and safety, be inaccessible by anyone who is not an authorized person (see below), and have an interior that is not visible from a publicly accessible area.

Additionally, the bill requires the facility's authorized persons to (1) comply with all cemetery corporation rules and (2) not infringe on the privacy of a deceased person's remains. "Authorized persons" include the following individuals:

1. licensed, registered funeral directors; registered residents; and enrolled mortuary science students;
2. licensed physicians and nurses;

3. cemetery corporation officers, trustees, and authorized employees and agents;
4. public officers discharging their duties;
5. funeral directing schools' authorized instructors; and
6. immediate family members of the deceased person and their authorized agents and designated representatives.

FACILITY APPROVALS & EMPLOYEE CREDENTIALS

DPH Facility Approval

Under the bill, a natural organic reduction facility is a structure, room, or other space in a building or real property where natural organic reduction of a human body occurs. A cemetery corporation seeking DPH approval to operate a facility must provide the commissioner with the following information:

1. a list of the corporation's directors, employees, and certificate holders;
2. the certified survey of the proposed facility's site and location;
3. a description of the proposed facility's impact on other natural organic reduction facilities in the county where the proposed facility will be located;
4. the plans, designs, and costs of any structures to be built or retrofitted for the facility's use; and
5. a description of any other approvals or permits required by state or local law.

The cemetery corporation must also provide the commissioner with a business plan for the proposed facility's operation, including how many reductions it expects per year and how many reduction units will be used; the manufacturing, capital costs, and financing; the anticipated number of employees; and the types of provided services and associated pricing.

The bill prohibits the commissioner from approving a natural organic reduction facility that does not have all other approvals or permits. It allows her to ask the applicant for any additional information or documentation and technical assistance necessary to review the information. The commissioner must receive all the information she requests for the submission to be considered complete.

Under the bill, the commissioner must approve or deny a proposed facility by written notice within 90 days after having a complete submission. A denial must state the reasons for it.

Employee Credentials

The bill requires natural organic reduction facility employees who conduct the daily operations of the reduction process to be certified by a DPH-approved organization. Proof of the certification must be posted in the facility and always available for inspection.

Under the bill, new facility employees who conduct these operations must be certified within one year after starting their employment. Similarly, existing employees hired before October 1, 2023, who are required to be certified must do so by October 1, 2024. These employees must be recertified every five years.

NATURAL ORGANIC REDUCTION PROCESS

Identification of the Deceased Person

The bill prohibits a facility from starting natural organic reduction until it makes reasonable confirmation of the deceased person's identity. It allows for proof of identity to be in the form of a (1) signed affidavit from a licensed physician, the deceased person's immediate family member, or an authorizing agent or (2) Superior Court order.

DPH Permit & Authorization Form

The bill prohibits a facility from conducting natural organic reduction of a deceased person's remains unless it has a DPH-prescribed natural organic reduction permit and authorization form accompanying the remains. The permit is presumptive evidence of the identity of the remains (see above).

The bill requires the authorization form to be signed by the deceased person's immediate family member or authorizing agent who (1) attests to permitting natural organic reduction to occur and (2) discloses whether the body has a battery, battery pack, power cell, or a radioactive implant or device, or whether such an item was removed from the body.

Under the bill, the natural organic reduction facility must ensure that the identification established by the permit stays with the deceased person's remains throughout the natural organic reduction process and until the identity is accurately and legibly inscribed on the container in which the deceased person's remains are temporarily placed.

Delivery of the Deceased Person's Remains

Under the bill, the deceased person's remains must be delivered to the natural organic reduction facility in an alternative container or in external wrappings that are sufficient to contain the remains and designed to fully decompose in the reduction process.

But when a facility receives a deceased person's remains in a casket that will not be reduced with the deceased person, the bill requires a written notice of this fact from the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements. This notice must state that the remains are to be transferred to an alternative container (see below). The notice must be kept in the facility's permanent records.

The bill prohibits the alternative container and external wrappings from being opened after delivery to the facility except if there is a reasonable request to do so from the deceased person's immediate family or the family's authorized agent, or there is good cause to (1) confirm the deceased person's identity or (2) ensure there is no material that might injure facility employees or damage facility property.

The bill requires the opening of the container or wrappings after the deceased person's delivery to the facility to be done (1) by the licensed funeral director or registered person who delivered the remains and (2) in the presence of a witness. The opening must also comply with any DPH rule or regulation designed to protect the remains' integrity and the facility employees' health and safety.

The bill requires the facility to make a record at the time of the opening and keep it in its permanent files. The record must include the reason for the opening and the (1) signature of the person who authorizes it and (2) names of anyone who conducts or witnesses it.

Preparing for Reduction Process

The bill prohibits a deceased person's remains from being removed from the casket, alternative container, or external wrappings in which the facility received them without a signed authorization from the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements or a public officer discharging their duties. This authorization must be kept in the facility's permanent records.

When remains must be transferred to an alternative container, the bill requires the transfer to be done in privacy, with dignity and respect for the remains, and by the licensed funeral director or the registered person who delivered them. The transfer must comply with DPH rules and regulations to protect the remains' dignity and the facility employees' health and safety.

The bill prohibits commingling or placing the naturally organically reduced remains of more than one deceased person in a reduction container at a time unless there is a signed authorization from the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements and a signed approval from the facility. (Presumably, this refers to remains that have not yet begun the reduction process.) The facility must keep the authorization and approval in its permanent records.

Post-Reduction Procedures

Removing Reduced Remains From the Chamber. After a natural organic reduction occurs, the bill requires the reduction chamber's contents to be placed in an individual container with the natural organic reduction permit attached to the container. The bill prohibits commingling the contents with other remains.

Removing Foreign Material From the Remains. The bill allows for the use of a magnet, sieve, or other appropriate separation method to

divide the remains from unrecognizable incidental or foreign material. Any material found through this process must be safely disposed of in a manner that complies with DPH sanitary rules and regulations for these byproducts.

Pulverization. The bill requires the naturally organically reduced remains to be pulverized until there is no single fragment recognizable as skeletal tissue. The pulverized remains must be transferred to a container, or multiple ones if the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements asks for it in writing. The container must be (1) of a suitable size to contain the remains and (2) accurately and legibly labeled with the name of the deceased person as DPH prescribes.

The bill prohibits anyone from placing the remains of more than one deceased person in the same temporary container or urn unless the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements provides written permission to do so.

Reduction Chamber Cleaning. Under the bill, the interior of a natural organic reduction chamber must be thoroughly swept or otherwise cleaned so that it is reasonably free of all matter after a natural organic reduction occurs.

Notification. After the natural organic reduction process for a deceased person's remains ends, the bill requires the cemetery corporation to notify the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements that the process is complete and the remains are prepared for disposal.

Disposition Options. The bill generally assigns responsibility for final disposition of the remains to the person responsible for the deceased person's funeral arrangements.

Under the bill, remains must be disposed of by (1) scattering them in a designated scattering garden or area in a cemetery; (2) placing them in a grave, crypt, or niche, with the cemetery corporation's prior authorization; or (3) keeping them, with prior authorization from the

person responsible for the deceased person’s funeral arrangements. If the remains are scattered or interred, the bill prohibits their recovery.

If the person responsible for the deceased person’s funeral arrangements fails to claim the remains or instruct the cemetery corporation on the arrangements for their final disposition within 120 days after the natural organic reduction process is complete, the bill allows the cemetery corporation to dispose of the remains as the bill prescribes without any further legal obligation or liability (see above). The bill requires the cemetery corporation to keep a permanent record of the final disposition site for these remains, and the person responsible for the deceased person’s funeral arrangements is responsible for reimbursing the cemetery corporation for its reasonable expenses to dispose of the remains.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 17 Nay 15 (02/17/2023)