Proposed Substitute Bill No. 5381

LCO No. **3618**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS OF UNLAWFUL FUNERAL SERVICE PRACTICES.

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

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account to be known as the "funeral service compensation account". The account shall contain (1) any amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the state for the purposes of this section, (2) any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account, and (3) gifts, grants, donations or bequests made for the purposes of this section. Investment earnings credited to the assets of the account shall become part of the assets of the account. The State Treasurer shall administer the account.

(b) All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the Department of Consumer Protection for the purposes of this section. The Commissioner of Consumer Protection may deduct and retain from the moneys in the account an amount equal to the costs incurred by the department in administering the provisions of this section, except said amount shall not exceed two per cent of the balance in the account in any fiscal year.

(c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall use the funeral service compensation account to make grants to eligible persons who were victims of fraudulent or otherwise unlawful practices involving moneys paid for funeral services. The department shall not make any grant that exceeds the balance available for grants in the account.

(d) Not later than January 1, 2027, the commissioner shall establish requirements for obtaining a grant under this section and a process for issuing grants to eligible persons or their immediate family members.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	*July 1, 2026*	New section