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**HARAZ N. GHANBARI**

State Representative | Ohio House District 3

**Committees**

Finance  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs  
Higher Education  
Insurance

**Subcommittees**

Finance Subcommittee on Primary  
and Secondary Education  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy Generation

November 19, 2020

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean and Ranking Member LePore-Hagan, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on H.B. 524 which updates and clarifies Ohio's laws regulating funeral homes, funeral directors, embalmers and embalming facilities.

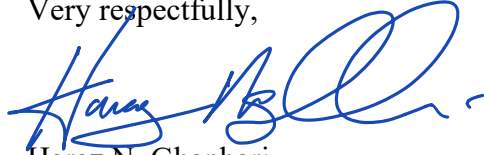
I have summarized the major provisions of H.B. 524 as follows:

1. Gives the Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors rulemaking authority relating to the requirements for the sale of preneed funeral services and funeral goods, the content and funding of preneed funeral contracts, and the payment and administration of preneed funeral funds.
2. Provides further clarity relating to the requirements for funeral homes, embalming facilities, and crematory facilities to display their applicable licenses in a conspicuous place within their facilities. This will help to insure that the public knows the facilities are duly licensed under Ohio law and that the various services being provided are provided by licensed professionals that are authorized to perform funeral-related services.
3. Establishes the process for the Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors to recognize a license issued to an embalmer or funeral director by another state, as a basis to be issued an Ohio license.
4. Establishes standards relating to the information required on a tag of a vessel containing cremated remains.
5. Establishes penalties for a licensee or permit holder who knowingly enters into an agreement with an unlicensed person to sell funeral or cremation services to a member of the public.
6. Requires crematories to make and keep detailed records of the final disposition of cremated remains.
7. Establishes procedures for the payment made by the purchaser of a preneed funeral contract funded by an insurance policy or trust and establishes a process for the seller of a preneed funeral contract who receives excess funds to deposit the funds into a trust or purchase insurance or annuity policies to fund additional preneed funeral contracts.

Chair Manning, with your permission Representative Dick Stein has agreed to offer a clarifying amendment to H.B. 524. It is amendment AM\_133\_2344. The purpose of the amendment is to clarify, that with the exception of reporting requirements, the laws governing preneed funeral contracts apply to cemetery companies and associations that sell funeral goods, including caskets, pursuant to such preneed contracts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haraz N. Ghanbari". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Haraz N. Ghanbari

Member of the Ohio House of Representatives