

Senator Cirino Sponsor Testimony
Senate Bill 224
9/22/21

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the General Government and Budget Committee. Thank you for allowing me to provide Sponsor Testimony for Senate Bill 224, a bill that will make some comprehensive changes to the current funerary laws.

For several years, the Ohio Funeral Directors Association and the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors have worked together to identify ways to strengthen and enhance Ohio's state laws around the funeral industry. Throughout this collaboration, both were able to come up with legislative proposals that will clean up outdated rules and regulations regarding the profession. With the proposed changes in SB 224, funeral directors will be better equipped to provide the best service to Ohio's families in their times of grief.

While there are a variety of changes proposed in the bill, the following are some of the main points of intent:

- Makes significant improvements to Ohio's preneed funeral law with provisions such as allowing funeral homes to endorse a check over to the trust or insurance company without having to compel the consumer to rewrite the check;
- Strengthens and streamlines the law governing cremation standards such as allowing crematories to dispose of copies of receipts signed by consumers after holding them for at least ten years after the date of cremation;
- Clarifies the right of disposition, simplifies record-keeping requirements, and ensures safety protocols for funeral processions;
- Simplifies and streamlines additional miscellaneous issues surrounding the state's funeral law, including elimination of outdated signage requirements, allowing funeral directors to obtain fetal death certificates for grieving parents, and clarification of licensing requirements to ensure out-of-state licensees are "in good standing" in their home state before Ohio will grant a license.

Not only is SB 224 a business friendly proposal, but it is a consumer friendly proposal. All of the proposed changes in this bill will benefit the more than 900 funeral homes in the state of Ohio, while simultaneously ensuring consumer protections are provided to the thousands of families that rely on funerary services. This legislation has the full support of both the OFDA and the SBEFD. Thank you for allowing me to testify and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.