

## **SB 224 House Sponsor Testimony**

Chairman Hillyer, Vice Chair Grendell, Ranking Member Galonski, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for letting me provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 224, which revises and modernizes the existing 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 Throughout this collaboration, both were able to come up with legislative proposals that will clean up outdated rules and regulations regarding the profession.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 included 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;
- There is an increase in the license reactivation fee for embalmers and funeral directors from \$140 to \$200, but this is to match the current licensing and renewal fee for active permits;
- 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and streamlines additional miscellaneous issues surrounding the state's funeral law, including elimination of outdated signage requirements, allowing funeral directors to obtain fetal death certificates for grieving parents, and clarification of licensing requirements to ensure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.

- Establishes a process for the transferring of unclaimed preneed funeral contract funds to the Department of Commerce
- Requires the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors to issue a report regarding trusting levels throughout the country.

Thank you for allowing me to provide Sponsor testimony, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.