

**Virginia Cemetery Association**  
**2023 General Assembly Session: End of Session Bill List and Summary**  
**May 30, 2023**

<b>Bills</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Last action</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>HB 1384 - Fowler</b> - Professional and Occupational Regulation, Department of; licensure by apprenticeship.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on General Laws</a>	(H) Left in General Laws  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/07/23
<b>HB 1565 - Convirs-Fowler</b> - Military spouses; burial fees at a veterans cemetery operated by Department of Veterans Services.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Appropriations</a>	(H) Left in Appropriations  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/07/23
<b>HB 1817 - Avoli</b> - Disposition of unclaimed bodies; how disposition expenses paid, seizure of assets.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions</a>  (S) <a href="#">Committee on General Laws and Technology</a>	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0486)  <b>PASSED; law takes effect July 1, 2023</b>	03/24/23
<b>HB 1869 - Scott, P.A.</b> - Bills creating certain boards and commissions; required sunset provision.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Rules</a>  (S) <a href="#">Committee on Rules</a>	(S) Passed by indefinitely in Rules (12-Y 4-N)  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/17/23
<b>HB 2011 - Roem</b> - Family cemeteries; interment rights, proof of kinship.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on General Laws</a>	(H) Left in General Laws  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/07/23
<b>HB 2362 - Wiley</b> - Military spouses; burial fees.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Appropriations</a>  (S) <a href="#">Committee on Finance and Appropriations</a>	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0366)  <b>PASSED; law takes effect July 1, 2023</b>	03/23/23
<b>HJ 513 - Plum</b> - Natural organic reduction; establishment of facilities.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Rules</a>	(H) Left in Rules  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/07/23
<b>SB 924 - DeSteph</b> - Military spouses; burial fees.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Appropriations</a>  (S) <a href="#">Committee on Finance and Appropriations</a>	(G) Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0367)  <b>PASSED; law takes effect July 1, 2023</b>	03/23/23
<b>SB 1487 - Morrissey</b> - Alkaline hydrolysis; establishes registration requirement, regulations.	(H) <a href="#">Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions</a>  (S) <a href="#">Committee on Education and Health</a>	(H) Left in Health, Welfare and Institutions  <b>DEAD for the year</b>	02/22/23

The 2023 legislative session was a relatively quiet one when it came to bills filed dealing with cemetery specific issues. For the first time in numerous years, we didn't have to fight a bill from

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the funeral association that sought to change the order of priority for making funeral decisions, which always inadvertently looped in cemeteries, despite us asking for years to be exempted.

The main bill we worked on ended up not passing out of the House committee- HB 2011. We didn't object to the underlying purpose of the bill, but we did have concerns about how broadly it had been drafted. The patron, Delegate Roem, was gracious and cooperative and we worked out new language to achieve her goals but protect private cemeteries. The bill faced additional headwinds and didn't receive a favorable vote, although we were neutral on it after she adopted our amendments.

The focus of the upcoming year are unprecedented General Assembly elections in November where all 140 seats in the House and Senate will be up for re-election in newly drawn districts after the 2020 census. Because of redistricting reform that was passed, the districts were not drawn by the political party in power; instead, they were drawn in a non-partisan manner by the courts. The changes have led to 10 Senators and 18 Delegates not seeking re-election, including some of the longest serving and influential legislators- Senator Dick Saslaw (47 years), Senator Janet Howell (32 years), Senator Tommy Norment (31 years), Delegate Ken Plum (41 years), Delegate Rob Bell (21 years), former Speaker of the House, Eileen Filler-Corn.

Because both houses are controlled by thin margins- the House Republicans 52-48 and the Senate Democrats 22-18, party control could switch in each house, along with having so many new legislators. Finally, 9 incumbent Delegates and 11 incumbent Senators are in contested primaries or general elections for their seats.

There will be a lot of changes after November, but your team at Commonwealth Strategy Group is already traveling around the state to meet the new candidates ahead of the 2024 General Assembly session.