

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2015, Legislative Day No. 2

Bill No. 6-15

Councilmembers Almond, Kach, Marks, Quirk, Jones & Bevins

By the County Council, January 20, 2015

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Zoning Regulations - Conservation Burial Ground

FOR the purpose of permitting a conservation burial ground in the R.C. 8 Zone by special exception; defining terms; providing certain conditions applicable to a conservation burial ground; and generally relating to conservation burial grounds.

BY adding

Section 101.1, the definition, alphabetically, of Conservation Burial Ground, and Sections 1A09.3.B.9 and 401.1.1
Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, as amended

WHEREAS, natural burial is an environmentally friendly burial option, free from the carbon emissions produced through the embalming or cremation process, that allows the interment of the body of a deceased person in a manner that does not inhibit decomposition but allows the body to recycle naturally; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
 [Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
 ~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
 Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 A CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND IS PERMITTED SUBJECT TO THE
2 FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

3 1. A CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND SHALL BE DESIGNED, OPERATED, AND
4 MAINTAINED IN A MANNER THAT PRODUCES A NATURAL APPEARANCE, BY USING
5 PLANTS AND MATERIALS NATIVE TO THE REGION, AND LANDSCAPE PATTERNS
6 DERIVED FROM AND COMPATIBLE WITH REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS.

7 2. THE LAND ON WHICH A CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND IS LOCATED
8 SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT ~~AND~~ WITH A
9 QUALIFIED LAND TRUST. A MINIMUM TRACT OF 60 ACRES IS REQUIRED. BUILDINGS
10 OR STRUCTURES ON THE PROPERTY ARE SUBJECT TO THE EASEMENT LIMITATIONS.
11 FENCES ARE NOT PERMITTED, EXCEPT IN CONNECTION WITH AN AGRICULTURAL
12 USE.

13 3. MEMORIAL GRAVE MARKERS MAY NOT BE RAISED ABOVE THE GROUND.
14 MARKERS SHALL CONSIST OF NATURAL AND NATIVE MATERIALS THAT WILL NOT
15 IMPEDE THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE.

16 4. A MAXIMUM OF 100 BURIALS PER ACRE IS PERMITTED.

17 5. A CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL
18 REQUIREMENTS OF STATE LAW, INCLUDING THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS OF
19 TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED
20 CODE OF MARYLAND.

21 6. THE OWNER OF A CONSERVATION BURIAL GROUND SHALL FILE A PLAT OF
22 THE BURIAL GROUND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND
23 INSPECTIONS. THE PLAT SHALL DEPICT THE EXISTENCE OF AN EASEMENT THAT
24 COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 14-121 OF THE REAL PROPERTY

1 ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by the
3 affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect on March 2, 2015.

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