



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 174

February Session, 2024

Substitute House Bill No. 5354

House of Representatives, March 28, 2024

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING TERRAMATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Public
2 Health shall convene a working group within the Department of Public
3 Health to examine existing permitting processes, regulations,
4 authorization forms and agency approval processes to determine any
5 requisite modifications to such permitting processes, regulations,
6 authorization forms and approval processes that would enable the
7 authorized utilization of natural organic reduction in this state for the
8 final disposition of human remains. For the purposes of this section,
9 "natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated
10 conversion of human remains to soil.

11 (b) Such working group shall consist of: (1) The Commissioner of
12 Public Health, or the commissioner's designee, (2) a representative of
13 the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, (3) a representative of the
14 Department of Public Health's Vital Records Office, (4) a representative
15 of the Department of Consumer Protection, (5) a representative of the

16 Department of Public Health's Environmental Engineering section, (6) a
 17 representative of the Department of Public Health's Practitioner
 18 Licensing program, (7) a representative of a registrar of vital statistics,
 19 (8) two representatives of the funeral director and funeral service
 20 business sector, and (9) any other representative as deemed necessary
 21 by the Commissioner of Public Health.

22 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Public Health,
 23 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
 24 shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the General
 25 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and
 26 public health that contains any legislative recommendations for
 27 statutory revisions or enactments to authorize the use of natural organic
 28 reduction in this state for the final disposition of human remains.
 29 Additionally, such report shall contain a proposed timeline for the
 30 revision of any regulations of the Department of Public Health and any
 31 other applicable state agency to authorize the utilization of natural
 32 organic reduction in this state, including, but not limited to, any
 33 regulations to provide for any requisite permitting processes,
 34 authorization forms and approval processes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Public Health to convene a working group to examine existing permitting processes, regulations, authorization forms, and agency approval processes to determine any requisite modifications to enable the utilization of natural organic reduction for the final disposition of human remains, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact due to working group member expertise.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5354

AN ACT CONCERNING TERRAMATION.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 10 (03/15/2024)