HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 513

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Rules

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Plum)

Directing the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers to study the establishment of natural organic reduction, also known as green burial or human composting, facilities in the Commonwealth. Report.

WHEREAS, the term "natural organic reduction" means the contained, accelerated conversion of human remains to soil; and

WHEREAS, the term "natural organic reduction facility" means a structure, room, or other space in a building or real property where natural organic reduction of a human body occurs; and

WHEREAS, natural organic reduction provides a sustainable alternative to cremation and burial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers be directed to study the establishment of natural organic reduction, also known as green burial or human composting, facilities in the Commonwealth.

In conducting its study, the Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers (the Board) shall convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to determine (i) the regulatory and statutory changes needed to legalize, implement, and regulate the process of natural organic reduction; (ii) proper standards for the operation of a facility for the purposes of natural organic reduction; (iii) proper requirements for licensing and permitting related to natural organic compounding; and (iv) the feasibility of establishing natural organic reduction facilities in the Commonwealth.

The work group shall provide opportunity for public participation and consider any necessary environmental precautions and safety measures to ensure proper (a) regulation and implementation of the

natural organic reduction process and (b) regulation and inspection of facilities where natural organic reduction is conducted in the Commonwealth.

The Board shall submit a summary of the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Health, Welfare, and Institutions no later than December 1, 2023.

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