

# Mount Hope Cemetery Corporation



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The 130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature  
Committee on State and Local Government  
Augusta, Maine

RE: An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission. Legislative Document No. 379, SP0167.

Dear Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Stephen G. Burrill, and I am the Superintendent of Mount Hope Cemetery Corporation located in Bangor, Maine.

My opposition to the bill is that, under 1. Permanent Members, letter E, no member of the funeral directors board should be allowed to act as a member of the commission. The commission members should be those who work in the cemetery industry. In general no licensed member of the Maine Board of Funeral Directors should be a member of any cemetery oversight as a conflict of interest.

The questions I have for this Committee are as follows: What exactly is the establishment of a Maine Cemetery Commission for? Is this just a preservation committee? The duties, number 3, of the commission are very vague. Should it be named the Maine Cemetery Preservation Commission?

I am a third generation Superintendent at Mount Hope and have over 50 years of dedicated cemetery service. My grandfather, Harold S. Burrill, Sr., was involved in the group that originally developed the Maine statutes for cemeteries in the 1930's. To me having a funeral director make cemetery decisions, I feel, could interfere by making changes that would allow for financial benefits.

I would ask that you delete letter E, under Permanent Members, from allowing a member of The Board of Funeral Directors from an appointed commissioner position. I would also recommend that an odd number of commissioners, nine members for instance, to be elected as to allow for voting purposes in the event of a tied vote. I would also ask that the Commission Members be restricted to residents of the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen G. Burrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Stephen G. Burrill  
Superintendent