



BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY • GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR
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Agenda Item 4
October 21, 2026

Cemetery and Funeral Bureau Advisory Committee Meeting 2026 Legislation Chaptered

[SB 1312](#) (Richardson, Chapter 696, Statutes of 2026) Cemeteries.

- The bill establishes a process for counties to assume control over “abandoned endowment care cemeteries,” defined as formerly licensed cemeteries that meet specific criteria, including having their endowment care funds conserved by the Bureau and posing risks to public health, safety, or welfare. If a county deems a cemetery to be abandoned, it must give the property owner 90 days’ written notice to fix identified issues. If the issues remain after 90 days, the county must declare the property abandoned and may take ownership of it and record the transfer. Within three years of taking title, the county must also assume control of any remaining endowment care funds and related records and assets, placing them in a special county fund to be used only for the cemetery’s care and maintenance. The county may transfer management of the cemetery to a qualified California nonprofit public benefit corporation.
- This bill allows a California nonprofit organization that manages the continued care and maintenance of an abandoned endowment care cemetery that oversees or performs interments pursuant to prepaid burial contracts, and does not enter into any new contracts for the sale of new burial spaces to consumers, exempt from the Cemetery and Funeral Act. It also would allow the county to access conserved endowment care funds, as specified.

[SB 2542](#) (Patterson, Chapter 951, Statutes of 2026) Human remains: disposition.

- This bill, which may be known and cited as Marissa's Law, amends Health and Safety Code section 7100 to add a requirement that would pass the right of control of human remains to the next of kin in accordance with existing law if a person with the right of control was either:
 - 1) Subject to a restraining order for domestic violence against the deceased at the time of the decedent's death; or
 - 2) Specific documentation proving that granting disposition rights to the person would have been contrary to the decedent's best interests. These documents may include a court order, court finding, or other court determination; or a will, agreement, or other legally determinative document.