

3300

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 4, 2015

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Introduced by Sen. RANZENHOFER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to regulation of cemetery trust funds and finances by the cemetery board

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (i) of section 1506 of the not-for-profit corporation law, paragraph (a) as added by chapter 871 of the laws of 1977 and paragraph (i) as amended by chapter 292 of the laws of 1999, are amended to read as follows:  
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5     (a) Purchase of land; notice to CEMETERY board [and court approval]. No cemetery corporation, in purchasing real property hereafter, shall pay or agree to pay more than the fair and reasonable market value thereof. The terms of the purchase, including the price to be paid and the method of payment, shall be subject[, upon notice] to NOTICE AND APPROVAL OF the cemetery board[, to approval by the supreme court in a district where any portion of the land is located]. In determining the fair and reasonable market value, the [court] CEMETERY BOARD may take into consideration the method by which the purchase price is to be paid.  
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14     (i) Sale or disposition of cemetery lands. (1) No cemetery corporation may sell or dispose of the fee of all or any part of its lands dedicated to cemetery use, unless it shall prove to the satisfaction of the supreme court in the district where any portion of the cemetery lands is located OR THE CEMETERY BOARD, THAT either: (A) [that] all bodies have been removed from each and every part of the cemetery, that all the lots in the entire cemetery have been reconveyed to the corporation and are not used for burial purposes, and that it has no debts and liabilities, or (B) [that] the land to be sold or disposed of is not used or is not physically adaptable for burial purposes and that the sale or disposition will benefit the cemetery corporation and the owners of plots and

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 graves in the cemetery, and (C) [that] the sale or disposition is not to  
2 a funeral entity as defined in paragraph (c) of section fifteen hundred  
3 six-a of this article. (2) If the sale or disposition is made pursuant  
4 to subparagraph (A) of subdivision one of this paragraph, the cemetery  
5 shall satisfy the court OR THE CEMETERY BOARD that it is in the public  
6 interest to dispose of such cemetery land in the manner proposed; that  
7 the subject land is not suitable for cemetery purposes or is no longer  
8 needed by the community for such cemetery uses or purposes; and that the  
9 subject land is being sold for its current market value. (3) If the sale  
10 or disposition of the land is made pursuant to subparagraph (B) of  
11 subdivision one of this paragraph, the court OR CEMETERY BOARD shall  
12 order that the consideration received by the cemetery corporation, less  
13 the necessary expenses incurred, shall be deposited into the permanent  
14 maintenance fund established by the cemetery corporation pursuant to  
15 paragraph (a) of section fifteen hundred seven of this article. (4)  
16 Notice of any application hereunder shall be given IN ADDITION to the  
17 cemetery board, to the holders of certificates of indebtedness and land  
18 shares of the cemetery corporation, [and] to any person [interested]  
19 HAVING INFORMED THE CEMETERY BOARD BY PETITION OR NOTICE OF INTEREST in  
20 the proceeding AND TO ANY PERSON INTERESTED IN THE PROCEEDING pursuant  
21 to section five hundred eleven of this chapter (Petition for leave of  
22 court).

23 S 2. Paragraph (e) and subparagraph 2 of paragraph (e-1) of section  
24 1507 of the not-for-profit corporation law, paragraph (e) as added by  
25 chapter 871 of the laws of 1977 and subparagraph 2 of paragraph (e-1) as  
26 amended by chapter 111 of the laws of 2000, are amended to read as  
27 follows:

28 (e) Designation of fiduciary corporation by directors or trustees of  
29 cemetery corporation to act as custodians of funds. Notwithstanding the  
30 provisions of any other law, the directors or trustees of cemetery  
31 corporations are hereby authorized to designate a bank or trust company  
32 to act as custodian and trustee of any or all of the respective funds of  
33 such cemetery corporation received by it for the perpetual care of lots  
34 in the cemetery thereof pursuant to [subdivision] PARAGRAPH (b), of this  
35 section, the permanent maintenance of such cemetery pursuant to [subdi-  
36 vision] PARAGRAPH (a) of this section, and for special purposes pursuant  
37 to [subdivision] PARAGRAPH (f) of this section. Such corporate trustee  
38 shall be designated by a resolution duly adopted by the board of direc-  
39 tors or trustees and approved by a justice of the supreme court of the  
40 judicial district in which the cemetery of said corporation is located  
41 OR THE CEMETERY BOARD; and the directors or trustees of such cemetery  
42 corporation may, with the approval of the justice of the supreme court,  
43 revoke such trust, and either take over such trust fund or name another  
44 trustee to handle the same, but if not so revoked, such trust shall be  
45 perpetual. Any bank or trust company accepting any such cemetery fund  
46 shall keep the same separate from all other funds, except that it may,  
47 irrespective of any provision contained in this article invest the same  
48 in a legal common trust fund or in shares of a mutual trust investment  
49 company organized under the banking law, and shall pay over the net  
50 income to the directors or trustees of the cemetery corporation by whom  
51 it shall be expended and applied to the purpose for which such trust  
52 fund was paid to the cemetery corporations and accounted for in accord-  
53 ance with such [subdivisions] PARAGRAPHS (a), (b) and (f) of this  
54 section.

55 (2) The principal of the fund shall be invested in securities permit-  
56 ted for the investment of trust funds by sections 11-2.2 and 11-2.3 of

1 the estates, powers and trusts law. The principal of such fund shall  
2 remain inviolate, except that upon application to the [supreme court in  
3 a district where a portion of the cemetery grounds is located, the  
4 court] CEMETERY BOARD, WHICH may make an order permitting the principal  
5 or a part thereof to be used for the purpose of restoring monuments  
6 damaged or defaced by an act of vandalism. The income arising from such  
7 investment shall be used solely for the costs and expenses resulting  
8 from an act of vandalism against monuments in such cemetery.

9 S 3. Paragraph (c) of section 1513 of the not-for-profit corporation  
10 law, as added by chapter 871 of the laws of 1977, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 (c) Resale by lot owner. Before any burial shall have been made in any  
13 such lot, plot or part thereof, or, if all the bodies therein have been  
14 lawfully removed, the lot owner may sell or convey such lot, plot or  
15 part thereof [subject to the prior approval of the cemetery board. Such  
16 approval shall not be granted unless] UPON NOTICE TO THE CEMETERY. SUCH  
17 SALE SHALL ONLY OCCUR IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE the owner of such lot,  
18 plot or part thereof shall have offered it to the cemetery corporation  
19 within [two years] ONE YEAR prior to the [application for such approval]  
20 SALE, in writing by registered or certified mail, at the price paid  
21 therefor by said lot owner, together with simple interest at the rate of  
22 four per centum per annum, and the cemetery corporation shall have  
23 failed to accept such offer within thirty days after the making thereof.  
24 [In the event the lot owner shall have acquired the lot, plot or part  
25 thereof other than by purchase, and provided the cemetery corporation  
26 and the lot owner cannot agree upon a price, the cemetery board shall  
27 fix a price therefor. In arriving at the price the cemetery board shall  
28 take into consideration the original price for which the cemetery corpo-  
29 ration sold the lot, plot or part thereof, and any other circumstances  
30 or factor which equitably relates to the price. The] SUBSEQUENT TO THE  
31 RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF SALE OF SUCH LOT, PLOT OR PART THEREOF, THE secre-  
32 tary of the cemetery corporation shall file and record in its books all  
33 instruments of transfer. An owner may convey or devise to the corpo-  
34 ration his right and title in and to any such lot, plot or part thereof.

35 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.