

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9517

## IN SENATE

July 29, 2022

Introduced by Sen. ADDABBO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to certain duties and responsibilities of cemetery corporations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph 4 of paragraph (c) of section 1504 of the  
2 not-for-profit corporation law, as added by chapter 557 of the laws of  
3 1985, is amended and two new subparagraphs 4-a and 4-b and a new para-  
4 graph (e) are added to read as follows:

5 (4) To impose a civil penalty upon a cemetery corporation not exceed-  
6 ing one thousand dollars, after conducting an adjudicatory hearing  
7 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (e) of this section, and  
8 consistent with the provisions of the state administrative procedure  
9 act, for a violation of or a failure to comply with any provisions  
10 contained in this article or any regulation, directive or order of the  
11 board, and without the need to maintain a civil action pursuant to  
12 subdivision five of this paragraph. (4-a) To adopt reasonable rules and  
13 regulations requiring that each cemetery corporation shall carry a  
14 liability insurance policy that provides coverage with respect to claims  
15 arising out of the death or bodily injury of any person as a result of  
16 the collapse of any monument, embellishment or other marker on a plot,  
17 lot or part thereof, regardless of whether any such collapse was caused  
18 by an act of vandalism committed by a person other than the claimant, in  
19 such amounts as the board determines to be adequate for such purpose.  
20 (4-b) To adopt reasonable rules and regulations requiring the approval  
21 of a licensed engineer prior to: the excavation of any grave, the  
22 construction, installation or removal of any mausoleum, vault, columbar-  
23 ium or other similar structure, the pouring of concrete for foundation,  
24 and other construction or maintenance activities involving the use of  
25 heavy machinery.

26 (e) Complaint process. Upon receipt of a consumer complaint form, the  
27 division of cemeteries shall forward such complaint to the cemetery  
28 corporation involved and contact the consumer no later than the close of

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

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1 business on the day following the date on which the complaint was  
2 received. The cemetery corporation shall respond to the division of  
3 cemeteries within fourteen calendar days after receipt of such consumer  
4 complaint. If the initial complaint is not resolved by the cemetery  
5 corporation, the consumer may request that the complaint be escalated to  
6 the cemetery board for investigation and resolution thereof. When a  
7 complaint is escalated, the board may take any action it deems neces-  
8 sary, consistent with the powers and duties of the cemetery board pursu-  
9 ant to paragraph (c) of this section. Upon completion of its investi-  
10 gation, the board shall send a written resolution to the consumer.

11 § 2. Section 1510 of the not-for-profit corporation law is amended by  
12 adding a new paragraph (p) to read as follows:

13 (p) Privacy and dignity of cemetery plots. No cemetery corporation or  
14 religious corporation having charge and control of a cemetery shall  
15 infringe on the privacy and dignity of the remains of deceased human  
16 beings. Cemeteries shall ensure all employees and third-party contrac-  
17 tors display proper respect for the deceased when on cemetery grounds.  
18 In the event that construction or other activity which impairs the  
19 privacy and dignity of the plot is to take place on cemetery grounds,  
20 the cemetery corporation shall, not less than fourteen days prior to the  
21 commencement of such construction or other activity, notify each  
22 affected plot owner, owner's distributee or person filing an affidavit  
23 with such corporation pursuant to the provisions of subparagraph one of  
24 paragraph (e) of section fifteen hundred twelve of this article.

25 § 3. Subparagraph 8 of paragraph (h) of section 1507 of the not-for-  
26 profit corporation law, as amended by chapter 380 of the laws of 2000,  
27 is amended and a new subparagraph 9 is added to read as follows:

28 (8) Nothing contained in this paragraph is to be construed [~~as giving~~  
29 ~~a cemetery corporation an "insurable interest" in monuments or other~~  
30 ~~embellishments on a plot, lot or part thereof, nor is it meant] to imply  
31 that the cemetery corporation has any responsibility for repairing  
32 vandalism damage not covered by this fund, nor for repairing or removing  
33 out of repair or dilapidated monuments or other markers not owned by the  
34 cemetery corporation, nor shall it constitute the doing of an insurance  
35 business.~~

36 (9) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of subparagraph eight of  
37 this paragraph or any other provision of law to the contrary, a cemetery  
38 corporation shall have an "insurable interest" in monuments and other  
39 embellishments on a plot, lot or part thereof for the purposes of  
40 obtaining liability insurance in accordance with the requirements of  
41 subparagraph four-a of paragraph (c) of section fifteen hundred four of  
42 this article.

43 § 4. Section 1510-b of the not-for-profit corporation law, as added by  
44 chapter 580 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

45 § 1510-b. Availability for interment on six-day basis.

46 Every cemetery corporation shall be available for interments at least  
47 six days per week, excluding legal holidays, as set forth in the ceme-  
48 tery's regulations or in accordance with its practices. Any cemetery  
49 which maintains and designates a burial section for persons of a partic-  
50 ular religious belief must remain available for grave openings and  
51 interments Sunday through Friday or other six-day period in accordance  
52 with the religious and/or ethnic traditions of the persons interred in  
53 said religious section, and shall remain available for grave openings  
54 and interments outside of normal business hours in the case of persons  
55 belonging to a religious and/or ethnic tradition that requires burial or  
56 interment of a decedent prior to sunset on the date of such decedent's

1 death, provided that any additional costs incurred by the cemetery  
2 corporation as a result of such burial or interment shall be chargeable  
3 to the person requesting such services outside of normal business hours.

4 Nothing in this section shall require a cemetery to provide grave  
5 openings and/or interments if they are otherwise unable to do so as to  
6 direct consequence of severe weather conditions or other similar condi-  
7 tions.

8 § 5. The not-for-profit corporation law is amended by adding a new  
9 section 1510-d to read as follows:

10 § 1510-d. Religious inspectors.

11 Every cemetery corporation which maintains and designates a burial  
12 section for persons of a particular religious belief and/or ethnic  
13 tradition shall appoint a person having authority from, or in accordance  
14 with, the rules and regulations governing such religious belief and/or  
15 ethnic tradition to ensure that the cemetery is in compliance with the  
16 applicable rules and regulations governing such religious belief and/or  
17 ethnic tradition with respect to burials. Each inspector appointed  
18 pursuant to this section shall be made in consultation with the members  
19 of such religious belief and/or ethnic tradition from the community in  
20 which the cemetery is located.

21 § 6. Section 1513 of the not-for-profit corporation law is amended by  
22 adding a new paragraph (e) to read as follows:

23 (e) Disclosure. No cemetery corporation subject to the provisions of  
24 this article shall sell or convey any right to use any lot, plot or part  
25 thereof to any person unless such cemetery corporation shall have  
26 disclosed to such person the condition of the soil under such lot, plot  
27 or part thereof, including but not limited to the existence of groundwa-  
28 ter or any other defects or past disturbances which may substantially  
29 impair or alter the natural condition of the soil.

30 § 7. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
31 have become a law.