

# STATE OF NEW YORK

3686

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 3, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. ZEBROWSKI -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the not-for-profit corporation law, in relation to cemetery trust funds

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

1 Section 1. Subparagraph 2 of paragraph (a) of section 1507 of the  
2 not-for-profit corporation law, as amended by chapter 509 of the laws of  
3 2014, is amended to read as follows:

4 (2) The permanent maintenance fund is hereby declared to be and shall  
5 be held by the corporation as a trust fund, for the purpose of maintain-  
6 ing and preserving the cemetery, including all lots, crypts, niches,  
7 plots, and parts thereof. The principal of such fund shall be invested  
8 in such securities as are permitted for the investment of trust funds by  
9 section 11-2.3 of the estates, powers and trusts law. The income in the  
10 form of interest and ordinary dividends therefrom shall be used solely  
11 for the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery grounds. [~~In addi-  
12 tion, the governing board of the corporation may appropriate for expend-  
13 iture solely for the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery  
14 grounds a portion of the net appreciation, in the fair market value of  
15 the principal of the trust, as is prudent under the standard established  
16 by article five A of this chapter, the prudent management of institu-  
17 tional funds act. In the event that a cemetery corporation seeks to  
18 appropriate any percentage of its net appreciation in its permanent  
19 maintenance fund in accordance with this subparagraph, the cemetery  
20 corporation shall provide notice of such proposed appropriation by  
21 certified mail to the cemetery board not less than sixty days in advance  
22 of such proposed appropriation and shall disclose such appropriation as  
23 part of and in addition to their annual reporting requirements as  
24 defined in section fifteen hundred eight of this article, setting forth  
25 the amount of funds to be appropriated for such expenditure and its~~]

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

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~~effect on the permanent maintenance fund. Such proposed appropriation shall become effective sixty days after receipt of such notice, unless the cemetery board within such sixty day period notifies the cemetery corporation that the board objects to the proposed appropriation. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subparagraph, all principal of the permanent maintenance fund shall remain inviolate, except that, upon application to the supreme court in a district where a portion of the cemetery grounds is located, the court may make an order permitting the principal or a part thereof to be used for the purpose of current maintenance and preservation of the cemetery or otherwise.]~~ In addition, in any year, the governing board of a qualified corporation, as defined below, may appropriate for expenditure solely for the maintenance and preservation of the cemetery grounds, and treat as income for all purposes, an amount of trust principal equal to the excess, if any, of a percentage of the fair market value of the principal of the trust, as of the last day of the cemetery's immediately preceding fiscal year, as is prudent under the standard established by article five-A of this chapter, the prudent management of institutional funds act over interest and ordinary dividends received in such year; provided, however, that an appropriation of an amount (the safe harbor amount) of trust principal equal to the excess of up to four percent of the fair market value of the principal of the trust, as of the last day of the cemetery's immediately preceding fiscal year over interest and ordinary dividends received in such year shall be deemed to be prudent in all events. A "qualified corporation" means a cemetery corporation which adopts a written investment policy setting forth guidelines on investments and delegation of management and investment functions in accord with the standards of article five-A of this chapter. If a cemetery corporation seeks to appropriate any percentage of the principal of the permanent maintenance fund in accordance with this subparagraph, the cemetery corporation shall provide notice of such proposed appropriation and provide a copy of its written investment policy by certified mail to the cemetery board not less than sixty days in advance of such proposed appropriation and shall disclose such appropriation as part of and in addition to their annual reporting requirements as defined in section fifteen hundred eight of this article, setting forth the amount of principal to be appropriated for such expenditure and its effect on the permanent maintenance fund. Such proposed appropriation shall become effective sixty days after receipt of such notice, unless the proposed appropriation exceeds the safe harbor amount or the written investment policy is not provided or is not prepared in accordance with the standards of article five-A of this chapter, and the cemetery board within such sixty-day period notifies the cemetery corporation that the board objects to the proposed appropriation. Except to the extent that principal is utilized as the result of the foregoing, all principal of the permanent maintenance fund shall remain inviolate, with the further exception that, upon application to the supreme court in a district where a portion of the cemetery grounds is located, the court may make an order permitting the principal or a part thereof to be used for the purpose of current maintenance and preservation of the cemetery or otherwise. Such application may be made by the cemetery board on notice to the corporation or by the corporation on notice to the cemetery board. Unless the cemetery can clearly demonstrate that it lacks sufficient future revenue to make repayment, any such allowance from the permanent maintenance fund shall be in the form of a loan, and the court

1 shall determine the method for repayment of such a loan by the cemetery  
2 to the fund.

3 § 2. Subparagraph 2 of paragraph (c) of section 1507 of the not-for-  
4 profit corporation law, as amended by chapter 509 of the laws of 2014,  
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (2) The principal of such funds, whether kept in the perpetual care  
7 fund or otherwise, and unless already so invested when received, shall  
8 be invested within a reasonable time after receipt thereof, and kept  
9 invested, in such securities as are permitted for the investment of  
10 trust funds by sections 11-2.2 and 11-2.3 of the estates, powers and  
11 trusts law. The income arising therefrom shall be used solely for the  
12 perpetual care and maintenance of the lot or plots or parts thereof for  
13 which such income has been provided. ~~[In addition, the governing board  
14 of the corporation may appropriate for expenditure solely for the  
15 perpetual care and maintenance of the lot or plots or parts thereof for  
16 which such income has been provided, a portion of the net appreciation  
17 in the fair market value of the principal of the trust as is prudent  
18 under the standard established by article five-A of this chapter, the  
19 prudent management of institutional funds act. In the event that a ceme-  
20 tery corporation seeks to appropriate any percentage of its net appreci-  
21 ation in its perpetual care fund in accordance with this subparagraph,  
22 the cemetery corporation shall provide notice of such appropriation to  
23 the cemetery board not less than sixty days in advance of such proposed  
24 appropriation and shall disclose such appropriation as part of and in  
25 addition to their annual reporting requirements as defined in section  
26 fifteen hundred eight of this article setting forth the amount of funds  
27 appropriated for such expenditure and its effect on the perpetual care  
28 funds. Such proposed appropriation shall become effective sixty days  
29 after receipt of such notice, unless the cemetery board within such  
30 sixty day period notifies the cemetery corporation that the board  
31 objects to the proposed appropriation.]~~

In addition, in any year, the governing board of a qualified corporation, as defined below, may appro-  
32 priate for expenditure solely for the maintenance and preservation of  
33 the cemetery grounds, and treat as income for all purposes, an amount of  
34 trust principal equal to the excess, if any, of a percentage of the fair  
35 market value of the principal of the trust, as of the last day of the  
36 cemetery's immediately preceding fiscal year, as is prudent under the  
37 standard established by article five-A of this chapter, the prudent  
38 management of institutional funds act over interest and ordinary divi-  
39 dends received in such year; provided, however, that an appropriation of  
40 an amount (the safe harbor amount) of trust principal equal to the  
41 excess of up to four percent of the fair market value of the principal  
42 of the trust, as of the last day of the cemetery's immediately preceding  
43 fiscal year over interest and ordinary dividends received in such year  
44 shall be deemed to be prudent in all events. A "qualified corporation"  
45 means a cemetery corporation which adopts a written investment policy  
46 setting forth guidelines on investments and delegation of management and  
47 investment functions in accord with the standards of article five-A of  
48 this chapter. If a cemetery corporation seeks to appropriate any  
49 percentage of the principal of the perpetual care fund in accordance  
50 with this subparagraph, the cemetery corporation shall provide notice of  
51 such proposed appropriation and provide a copy of its written investment  
52 policy by certified mail to the cemetery board not less than sixty days  
53 in advance of such proposed appropriation and shall disclose such appro-  
54 priation as part of and in addition to their annual reporting require-  
55 ments as defined in section fifteen hundred eight of this article,

1 setting forth the amount of principal to be appropriated for such  
2 expenditure and its effect on the perpetual care fund. Such proposed  
3 appropriation shall become effective sixty days after receipt of such  
4 notice, unless the proposed appropriation exceeds the safe harbor amount  
5 or the written investment policy is not provided or is not prepared in  
6 accordance with the standards of article five-A of this chapter, and the  
7 cemetery board within such sixty-day period notifies the cemetery corpo-  
8 ration that the board objects to the proposed appropriation.

9 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.