

NATaT Alert
ACTION ALERT
URGE CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE BEREAVED CONSUMERS
RIGHTS ACT (H.R. 3655)
Dec. 8, 2010

There could be renewed activity on the Bereaved Consumers Rights Act (H.R. 3655) this week. H.R. 3655, introduced by Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL), would require the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to enact a new trade rule requiring a variety of consumer disclosures by all cemeteries providing funeral goods and services. Minor violations of these new FTC cemetery rules could trigger fines up to \$16,000 per violation. The FTC's jurisdiction is generally limited to for-profit businesses. The regulation of not-for-profit organizations, including local governments, would stretch the FTC's mandate. Furthermore, legislation already exists in many states to regulate local cemeteries.

The House added H.R. 3655 to its calendar yesterday, which means that the bill could be considered at any point. While the Senate is not considering a companion version of H.R. 3655 in the lame duck session, the real concern is that the House could tie H.R. 3655 to a bill that the Senate passed last weekend requiring reports on the management of Arlington Cemetery (S. 3860). S. 3860 doesn't impact local governments, but the House could link H.R. 3655 and S. 3860 together and dare the Senate to reject it.

Take action!

1. NATaT opposes H.R. 3655 and encourages all town and township officials to contact their House Members and urge them to reject H.R. 3655.

Michigan congressional contact information is available at www.house.gov.

For more information, contact Andrew Seth at (202) 454-3922 or aseth@tfqnet.com.

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Thank you.