The Assembly Regulated Professions Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3840.

This bill prohibits religious corporations, associations, organizations or societies from engaging in certain practices involving cemeteries, funeral homes and mortuaries, as well as memorials, mausoleums and burial vaults. More specifically, the bill prohibits a religious corporation, association, organization or society that owns or controls a cemetery or that engages in the management, operation or sales of or for a cemetery, or the owner or operator of a religious cemetery, from engaging in: the ownership, manufacture, installation, sale, creation, inscription, provision or conveyance, in any form, of memorials; the ownership, manufacture, installation, sale, creation, provision or conveyance, in any form, of vaults, including vaults installed in a grave before or after sale and including vaults joined with each other in the ground; or the ownership, manufacture, installation, sale, creation, provision or conveyance, in any form, of a mausoleum intended for private use, except for a mausoleum built for use by or sale to the general public membership of a religious organization.

In addition, the bill prohibits a religious corporation, association, organization or society that owns or controls a cemetery or that engages in the management, operation or sales of or for a cemetery, or the owner or operator of a religious cemetery, from engaging in: the ownership or conduct of any funeral home or mortuary, or the engaging in the business or profession of funeral directing or mortuary science; the sale, renting or leasing of any of its real property, including that which is adjacent to a cemetery or dedicated to cemetery purposes, for the location of a funeral home or mortuary or the conduct of the business or profession of funeral directing or mortuary science; or the entering into a management contract to authorize control of its cemetery related operations with any entity that, directly or indirectly, in this State, engages in the ownership or conduct of a funeral home or mortuary or that engages in the business or profession of funeral directing or mortuary science.