

## Cemetery bills pass General Assembly

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The General Assembly gave its final approval to bills that would toughen penalties for grave vandals and define abandoned burial sites.

One of the bills makes it a felony to deface a grave mark, tombstone or other cemetery monument, no matter how small the damage. Another bill helps classify abandoned and public cemeteries. The bill came about, in part, to encourage better accounting of these locations by county commissioners and local historical groups.