

CHAPTER 9. MAUSOLEUMS OR SIMILAR STRUCTURES

§ 601. Application of Chapter

This Chapter applies to all structures, including but not limited to mausoleums, tombs, columbariums, niches, lawn crypts, and underground crypts used, intended to be used, or converted or altered for use for the interment of the remains of two or more persons, whether erected under, above, or partially below the surface of the earth.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1. Amended by Acts 2022, No. 574, § 1.

§ 602. Standards of construction

No structure shall be built or altered for use or to be used for interment purposes unless constructed of such material and workmanship as will insure its durability and permanence. The cemetery authority shall have the right to establish and enforce standards of construction for all work done in the cemetery.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1.

§603. Ordinances and specifications to be complied with

Each structure shall comply with the ordinances, specifications, and building codes relating to mausoleums and related structures of the state and of the parish and municipality in which the structure is located.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1.

§604. Improper construction a nuisance; penalty

Every owner or builder of a structure erected or converted in violation of this Title shall be guilty of maintaining a public nuisance and, upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than five thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not less than one month nor more than six months, or both.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1. Amended by Acts 2022, No. 574, § 1.

§ 605. Construction in compliance with existing laws

The penalties of this Chapter shall not apply to any structure that is in existence on July 31, 1974, which at the time of construction was constructed in compliance with the laws then existing, provided its continued use is not in violation of the laws for the protection of the public health.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1. Amended by Acts 2022, No. 574, § 1.

§606. Commencement and completion requirements; application form; application fee

A. (1) Prior to the first sale of a cemetery space or the right of use or interment in any cemetery space

in a structure which has not yet been constructed, the cemetery authority shall submit to the board all of the following:

(a) A copy of the preliminary plans.

(b) A map or plat delineating the sections, blocks, plots, avenues, walks, halls, rooms, corridors, elevations, or other subdivisions, with descriptive name or numbers.

(c) A copy of all sales promotion material.

(d) A copy of the pre-construction sales contract.

(2) The cemetery authority shall submit the information required in this Subsection on an application form prescribed by the board, accompanied by an application fee of two hundred fifty dollars to cover the board's reasonable and ordinary expenses associated with determining compliance with applicable provisions of this Title.

B. A cemetery authority shall be required to commence construction pursuant to the plans filed with the board within forty-eight months after the date of the first sale of each section of the structure in which sales, contracts for sales, or reservations for sales are being made, and the construction of each such section shall be completed within five years after the date of the first sale. However, extensions not to exceed one year may be granted by the board for reasonable cause. Further extensions may be granted pursuant to Subsection C of this Section. If the structure is not completed within the time specified in this Subsection, all monies paid plus any monetary penalties assessed by the board shall be paid to the purchasers, unless the cemetery authority delivers a completed interment space acceptable to the purchaser in lieu of the interment space purchased.

C. The board, at its discretion, may grant an extension to the time period set forth in Subsection B of this Section based upon the occurrence of a force majeure event. Such an extension shall be granted only for reasonable cause. Each force majeure event shall be treated as a separate incident.

D. Failure to commence or complete a section within the time herein required shall be a misdemeanor punishable by fine of not less than two hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment of not less than thirty days nor more than one year, or both.

Acts 1974, No. 417, § 1. Amended by Acts 1999, No. 1199, § 1. Amended by Acts 2004, No. 66, § 1. Amended by Acts 2010, No. 63, § 1. Amended by Acts 2015, No. 222, § 1. Amended by Acts 2022, No. 574, § 1.