

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1889

By: Ownbey of the House

and

Simpson of the Senate

3
4
5
6
7 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; authorizing
8 the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a
9 State Veterans' Cemetery System; providing the
10 cemetery system shall have cemeteries to serve
11 veterans and their immediate families; authorizing
12 the Department to employ staff, make certain
13 purchases and charge fees; directing the Department
14 to promulgate rules, develop plans and programs, make
15 certain applications and accept donations; providing
16 for funding options; authorizing the Department to
17 acquire land; providing for codification; and
18 providing an effective date.

19
20
21
22
23
24
BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 35 of Title 72, unless there is
created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to
construct, establish, administer, operate and maintain a State
Veterans' Cemetery System. The State Veterans' Cemetery System
shall consist of one or more cemeteries to serve the veterans,

1 spouses and eligible dependents of the veterans of the State of
2 Oklahoma.

3 B. The Department may:

4 1. Employ staff to operate the cemetery system;

5 2. Purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation
6 and support of the cemetery system; and

7 3. Charge a fee for each interment of an eligible spouse or
8 dependent of a veteran.

9 C. The Department shall:

10 1. Promulgate appropriate guidelines, rules or regulations for
11 determining eligibility for burial, instituting standards for the
12 cemeteries, and setting burial charges to be assessed for the burial
13 of spouses and eligible dependents;

14 2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial
15 establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for
16 their orderly expansion;

17 3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly
18 administration of the cemetery system;

19 4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United
20 States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as
21 is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain the
22 cemetery system; and

23

24

1 5. Accept donations of real or personal property for the
2 construction, establishment, operation and maintenance of the State
3 Veterans' Cemetery System.

4 D. The Department may seek, accept and expend private, state
5 and federal funds for the establishment, construction, maintenance,
6 administration and operation of the cemetery system as provided in
7 this section. The Department may purchase or accept land, on behalf
8 of the state, or may utilize land owned by the Department for the
9 establishment of a veterans' cemetery.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

11 Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of March, 2017.

12

13

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

14

15

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2017.

16

17

18

Presiding Officer of the Senate

19

20

21

22

23

24