

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 543

By: Simpson of the Senate

3 and

4 Ownbey of the House

5  
6 [ soldiers and sailors - State Veterans' Cemetery  
7 System - codification - effective date ]  
8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

10 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
11 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 31a of Title 72, unless there is  
12 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

13 A. The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to  
14 construct, establish, administer, operate, and maintain a State  
15 Veterans' Cemetery System. The State Veterans' Cemetery System  
16 shall consist of one or more cemeteries to serve veterans, spouses  
17 and eligible dependents of veterans of the State of Oklahoma.

18 B. The Department may:

19 1. Employ staff to operate the cemetery system;

20 2. Purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation  
21 and support of the cemetery system; and

22 3. Charge a fee for each interment of an eligible spouse or  
23 dependent of a veteran.

24 C. The Department shall:

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

5 2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial  
6 establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for  
7 their orderly expansion;

8 3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly  
9 administration of the cemetery system;

10 4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United  
11 States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as  
12 is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain this  
13 cemetery system; and

14 5. Accept donations of real or personal property for the  
15 construction, establishment, operation and maintenance of the State  
16 Veterans' Cemetery System.

17 D. The Department may seek, accept and expend private, state  
18 and federal funds for the establishment, construction, maintenance,  
19 administration and operation of the cemetery system as provided in  
20 this section. The Department may accept land, on behalf of the  
21 state, or may utilize land owned by the Department for the  
22 establishment of a veterans' cemetery.

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

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