

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Pearson, Felag, Seveney, and Paiva Weed

Date Introduced: March 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 30-25-14 of the General Laws in Chapter 30-25 entitled "Burial of  
2 Veterans" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **30-25-14. Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery.**

4 (a) The Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery, located on the grounds of the Joseph  
5 H. Ladd school in the town of Exeter, shall be under the management and control of the director  
6 of the department of human services. The director of the department of human services shall  
7 appoint an administrator for the Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery who shall be an  
8 honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces and shall have the general  
9 supervision over, and shall prescribe rules for, the government and management of the cemetery.  
10 He or she shall make all needful rules and regulations governing the operation of the cemetery  
11 and generally may do all things necessary to ensure the successful operation thereof. The director  
12 shall promulgate rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of 38 U.S.C. § 2402,  
13 to govern the eligibility for burial in the Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery. In addition to  
14 all persons eligible for burial pursuant to rules and regulations established by the director, any  
15 person who served in the army, navy, air force, or marine corps of the United States for a period  
16 of not less than two (2) years and whose service was terminated honorably, shall be eligible for  
17 burial in the Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery. The director shall appoint and employ all  
18 subordinate officials and persons needed for the proper management of the cemetery. National  
19 guard members who are killed in the line of duty or who are honorably discharged after

1 completion of at least twenty (20) years' of service in the Rhode Island national guard and their  
2 spouse shall be eligible for interment in the Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery. For the  
3 purpose of computing service under this section, honorable service in the active forces or reserves  
4 shall be considered toward the twenty (20) years of national guard service. The general assembly  
5 shall make an annual appropriation to the department of human services to provide for the  
6 operation and maintenance for the cemetery. The director shall charge and collect a grave liner  
7 fee per interment of the eligible spouse and/or eligible dependents of the qualified veteran equal  
8 to the department's cost for the grave liner.

9 (b) No domestic animal shall be allowed on the grounds of the Rhode Island veterans'  
10 memorial cemetery, whether at large or under restraint, except for seeing eye guide dogs, hearing  
11 ear signal dogs or any other service animal, as required by federal law or any personal assistance  
12 animal, as required by chapter 9.1 of title 40. Any person who violates the provisions of this  
13 section shall be subject to a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500).

14 (c) Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery shall bear the cost of a veterans' funeral  
15 procession emanating from Aquidneck Island and going to the cemetery for burial or interment at  
16 the Rhode Island resident (RIR) tolls rate per vehicle in the funeral procession.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would have the veterans' cemetery bear the cost of funeral processions from
- 2   Aquidneck Island crossing the Newport Bridge.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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