

2020 -- S 2094

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE - BURIAL OF VETERANS

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, Lynch Prata, Archambault, Ciccone, and Algieri

Date Introduced: January 21, 2020

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

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. [Veterans qualifying under this subsection may](#)
9 [designate a domestic partner who meets the requirements in §§ 36-12-1\(3\)\(i\) through \(3\)\(v\) to be](#)
10 [buried with them.](#)

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

16 (c) The state of Rhode Island office of veterans' affairs shall bear the cost of all tolls
17 incurred by any motor vehicles that are part of a veteran's funeral procession, originating from
18 Aquidneck Island ending at the veterans' memorial cemetery, for burial or internment. The
19 executive director of the turnpike and bridge authority shall assist in the administration and
20 coordination of this toll reimbursement program.

21 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 allow a veteran who qualifies to be buried at the Rhode Island veterans'
- 2 memorial cemetery to designate a domestic partner to be buried with them.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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