

SENATE BILL 1046

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 25; Title 46, Chapter 6 and Title 58, relative to funeral honors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 25, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of veterans services shall establish and administer an honor guard grant program. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to veteran service organizations registered with the secretary of state to offset expenses incurred by the organization and members of the organization's honor guard in providing honor guard burial details at the funerals of qualifying Tennessee veterans, including expenses for training, transportation, food, equipment, and supplies.

(b) The grant fund is subject to appropriations by the general assembly and gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the grant fund.

(c) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year to nonprofit veteran service organizations. The department shall establish and publish guidelines for applications, prioritization, and award of grants.

(d) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Veteran" means a decedent who is eligible to receive a military funeral honors ceremony pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, Public Law 106-65; and

(2) "Veteran service organization" means an association, corporation, or other entity that aids and serves veterans, servicemembers, dependents, and

survivors and qualifies under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(19) as a tax exempt organization, a federally chartered veterans' service corporation, or a veterans' affairs office or agency established by state law.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.