

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2369

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of grant amounts awarded under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program for construction of fully enclosed committal service shelters in certain State veterans' cemeteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2019

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of grant amounts awarded under the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program for construction of fully enclosed committal service shelters in certain State veterans' cemeteries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Committal Service Shelter Act of 2019".

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
3 gress that—

4 (1) a committal service shelter should be a
5 quiet, dignified shelter that provides protection from
6 the wind, rain, and sun for an internment service in
7 a solemn manner; and

8 (2) such shelters should provide comfort for
9 grieving families in all weather, especially during the
10 heat of summer, middle of winter, and all types of
11 storms.

12 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
13 ings:

14 (1) As of the day before the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act, the Department of Veterans Af-
16 fairs does not provide funding for construction of en-
17 closed committal service shelters under the Veterans
18 Cemetery Grants Program.

19 (2) As of the day before the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, highly rural communities have few
21 options for protection from inclement weather during
22 funerals for veterans and open shelters hardly shield
23 family and loved ones from extreme weather.

24 (3) As of the day before the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, States with only one State vet-
26 erans' cemetery funded by the Veterans Cemetery

1 Grants Program have few options with respect to
2 committal service shelters.

3 (c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
4 ize the use of grant amounts awarded under the Veterans
5 Cemetery Grants Program for construction of fully en-
6 closed committal shelters in certain State veterans' ceme-
7 teries.

8 **SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION OF FULLY ENCLOSED COMMITTAL**
9 **SERVICE SHELTERS IN STATE VETERANS'**
10 **CEMETERIES.**

11 Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(g) A grant awarded under subsection (a)(1)(A)
15 may be used for construction of a fully enclosed committal
16 service shelter in a veterans' cemetery owned by a State
17 that—

18 “(1) has one or fewer veterans' cemeteries that
19 are federally funded; and

20 “(2) has one or fewer national cemeteries under
21 the control of the National Cemetery Administration
22 with space available to accommodate casketed or cre-
23 mated remains.”.

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