

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 543

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Ownbey of the House

An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a State Veterans' Cemetery System; providing the cemetery system shall have cemeteries to serve veterans and their immediate families; authorizing the Department to employ staff, make certain purchases and charge fees; directing the Department to promulgate rules, develop plans and programs, make certain applications and accept donations; providing for funding options; authorizing the Department to acquire land; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: State Veterans' Cemetery System

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

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

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

B. The Department may:

1. Employ staff to operate the cemetery system;
2. Purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and support of the cemetery system; and
3. Charge a fee for each interment of an eligible spouse or dependent of a veteran.

C. The Department shall:

1. Promulgate appropriate guidelines, rules, or regulations for determining eligibility for burial, instituting standards for the cemeteries, and setting burial charges to be assessed for the burial of spouses and eligible dependents;
2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for their orderly expansion;
3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly administration of the cemetery system;
4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain this cemetery system; and
5. Accept donations of real or personal property for the construction, establishment, operation and maintenance of the State Veterans' Cemetery System.

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

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

Passed the Senate the 3rd day of May, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of April, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____