

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE BILL 1889

By: Ownbey of the House

5 and

6 Simpson of the Senate

7
8
9 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

23 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
24 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 35 of Title 72, unless there is
25 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

26 A. The Department of Veterans Affairs is authorized to
27 construct, establish, administer, operate and maintain a State

1 Veterans' Cemetery System. The State Veterans' Cemetery System
2 shall consist of one or more cemeteries to serve the veterans,
3 spouses and eligible dependents of the veterans of the State of
4 Oklahoma.

5 B. The Department may:

6 1. Employ staff to operate the cemetery system;

7 2. Purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation
8 and support of the cemetery system; and

9 3. Charge a fee for each interment of an eligible spouse or
10 dependent of a veteran.

11 C. The Department shall:

12 1. Promulgate appropriate guidelines, rules or regulations for
13 determining eligibility for burial, instituting standards for the
14 cemeteries, and setting burial charges to be assessed for the burial
15 of spouses and eligible dependents;

16 2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial
17 establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for
18 their orderly expansion;

19 3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly
20 administration of the cemetery system;

21 4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United
22 States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as
23 is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain the
24 cemetery system; and

1 5. Accept donations of real or personal property for the
2 construction, establishment, operation and maintenance of the State
3 Veterans' Cemetery System.

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

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

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12 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS,
13 dated 03/02/2017 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.
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