

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR ENGROSSED
6 SENATE BILL NO. 543

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Ownbey of the House

8
9
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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

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

24 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

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

4 B. The Department may:

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

10 C. The Department shall:

- 11 1. Promulgate appropriate guidelines, rules, or regulations for
12 determining eligibility for burial, instituting standards for the
13 cemeteries, and setting burial charges to be assessed for the burial
14 of spouses and eligible dependents;
- 15 2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial
16 establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for
17 their orderly expansion;
- 18 3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly
19 administration of the cemetery system;
- 20 4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United
21 States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as
22 is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain this
23 cemetery system; and
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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 accept land, on behalf of the
8 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 03/29/2017 - DO PASS, As Amended.
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