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AS AMENDED

By: Simpson of the Senate

and

Ownbey of the House

[soldiers and sailors - State Veterans' Cemetery
System - codification - effective date]

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

1 3. Charge a fee for each interment of an eligible spouse or
2 dependent of a veteran.

3 C. The Department shall:

4 1. Promulgate appropriate guidelines, rules, or regulations for
5 determining eligibility for burial, instituting standards for the
6 cemeteries, and setting burial charges to be assessed for the burial
7 of spouses and eligible dependents;

8 2. Develop plans and programs which will provide for initial
9 establishment of sites to meet the greatest need and provide for
10 their orderly expansion;

11 3. Establish accounts as are necessary to the orderly
12 administration of the cemetery system;

13 4. Make applications to federal agencies such as the United
14 States Department of Veterans Affairs and receive federal funding as
15 is available to establish, construct, operate and maintain this
16 cemetery system; and

17 5. Accept donations of real or personal property for the
18 construction, establishment, operation and maintenance of the State
19 Veterans' Cemetery System.

20 D. The Department may seek, accept and expend private, state
21 and federal funds for the establishment, construction, maintenance,
22 administration and operation of the cemetery system as provided in
23 this section. The Department may accept land, on behalf of the
24

1 state, or may utilize land owned by the Department for the
2 establishment of a veterans' cemetery.

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

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
5 February 22, 2017 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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