

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 543

By: Simpson

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; establishing
8 a State Veterans' Cemetery System; providing for
codification; and providing an effective date.

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

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

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

20 B. The Department may:

- 21 1. Employ staff to operate the cemetery system;
22 2. Purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation
23 and support of the cemetery system; and
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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 purchase or accept land, on behalf
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1 of the 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.

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