



Substitute Senate Bill No. 642

Special Act No. 23-25

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING THE UPKEEP OF VETERANS' GRAVES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) There is established a veterans' graves upkeep working group to develop a process for family members of deceased veterans who have been buried in a cemetery in this state to address concerns regarding the upkeep of such deceased veterans' graves.

(b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's designee;

(4) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who is a member of an association in this state that represents funeral directors and other funeral service professionals;

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(5) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who is a member of an organization of municipal leaders in this state that represents towns and cities of varying sizes;

(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who is a member of an organization in this state that represents small towns; and

(7) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a member of an association in this state that represents cemeterians and other related professionals, including suppliers and vendors who service the cemetery industry.

(c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not later than August 1, 2023. Any vacancy other than the initial appointment shall be filled by the appointing authority.

(d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the working group from among the members of the working group. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group, which shall be held not later than September 1, 2023.

(e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, consumer protection and public health shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

(f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report on the process developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs, consumer protection and public health, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, including, but not limited to, any recommended changes in state law necessary to

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implement such process. The working group shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

Approved June 28, 2023