



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 216

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 642

Senate, March 27, 2023

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. MARX of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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:

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

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

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

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

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

12 designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (f) Not later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a
39 report on the process developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
40 section to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
41 cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs,

42 consumer protection and public health, in accordance with the
 43 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, including, but not
 44 limited to, any recommended changes in state law necessary to
 45 implement such process. The working group shall terminate on the date
 46 that it submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a), "in this state" was added for consistency with standard drafting conventions; and Subsecs. (b)(4) to (b)(7) were rewritten for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

VA *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill creates a veterans' graves upkeep working group resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the working group has the expertise to meet the requirements of the bill.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 642

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

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13 Nay 7 (03/07/2023)