



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 642

January Session, 2023



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
3 members of deceased veterans who have been buried in a cemetery in
4 this state to address concerns regarding the upkeep of such deceased
5 veterans' 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
10 commissioner's 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

17 is 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
41 having 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
46 date 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:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
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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.*