



Substitute House Bill No. 6480

Public Act No. 21-112

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS.

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

Section 1. Section 27-118 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

(a) When any veteran dies, not having sufficient estate to pay the necessary expenses of the veteran's last sickness and funeral expenses, as determined by the commissioner after consultation with the probate court for the district in which the veteran resided, the state shall pay the sum of one thousand eight hundred dollars toward such funeral expenses. [, and the burial]

(b) Burial shall be in some cemetery or plot not used exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead. [, and the same amount shall be paid if the body is cremated, but no]

(c) No amount shall be paid for [the] funeral expenses [for burial or cremation] unless claim therefor is made within one year from the date of death, except that in cases of death occurring abroad, such claim may be made within one year after the remains of such veteran have been interred in this country. No provision of this section shall prevent the payment of the sum [above named for the burial of any person,

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otherwise entitled to the same,] under subsection (a) of this section for funeral expenses on account of [such] the burial of such veteran being made outside the limits of this state.

(d) Upon satisfactory proof by the person who has paid or provided for the funeral [or burial expense] expenses to the commissioner of the identity of the deceased, the time and place of the deceased's death and burial and the approval thereof by the commissioner, [said] the sum [of one thousand eight hundred dollars] under subsection (a) of this section shall be paid by the Comptroller to the person who has paid the funeral [or burial expense or, upon assignment by such person, to the funeral director who has provided the funeral] expenses.

(e) Whenever the Comptroller has lawfully paid any sum toward the funeral expenses of [the burial of] any deceased veteran and it afterwards appears that the deceased left any estate, the Comptroller may present a claim on behalf of the state against the estate of such deceased veteran for the sum so paid, and the claim shall be a preferred claim against such estate and shall be paid to the Treasurer of the state. The commissioner, upon the advice of the Attorney General, may make application for administration upon the estate of any such deceased veteran if no other person authorized by law makes such application within sixty days after such payment has been made by the Comptroller.

(f) As used in this section, (1) "veteran" means any person [(1)] (A) honorably discharged from, or released under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, or [(2)] (B) with a qualifying condition, as defined in said section, who has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from active service in the armed forces; and (2) "funeral expenses" means (A) the cash advances paid by the funeral director and the cost of funeral services and funeral merchandise, (B) the cost of burial, cremation or disposition, and (C) the cost of publication of an obituary. "Funeral merchandise" includes, but is not limited to, alternative containers,

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caskets, urns, vaults and outer burial containers.

Approved June 28, 2021