

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 21-112—sHB 6480

Veterans' Affairs Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNERAL EXPENSES OF CERTAIN VETERANS

SUMMARY: This act defines the funeral expenses eligible for the state burial benefit for indigent veterans.

By law, when a veteran dies and does not leave enough money to pay burial expenses, as determined by the veterans commissioner after consulting with the appropriate probate court, the state must pay \$1,800 toward his or her funeral expenses for burial or cremation. Under the act, “funeral expenses” mean the cost of (1) cash advances paid by the funeral director, funeral services, and funeral merchandise (e.g., alternate containers, caskets, urns, vaults, and outer burial containers); (2) burial, cremation, or disposition; and (3) publishing an obituary. The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

By law, a veteran qualifies for this benefit if he or she was (1) discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces or (2) had a qualifying condition (i.e., post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma) and received a discharge that was not dishonorable or for bad conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

Related Acts

PA 21-79 extends eligibility for the state burial benefit for indigent veterans (and other specified veterans programs and benefits) to veterans released with an other than honorable discharge based on specified qualifying conditions.

PA 21-51 similarly extends eligibility for this and other veterans’ benefits to members of the Hmong Laotian special guerilla units that served during the Vietnam war in the U.S. secret war in the Kingdom of Laos.