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State Laws Related to Burial of Indigent Veterans

Jennifer Schultz | (303) 856-1353 | jennifer.schultz@ncsl.org

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At least 26 states arrange for burial or cremation of veterans who die without leaving sufficient funds to defray funeral expenses.

STATE	STATUTE CITATION	SUMMARY
Alabama	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. §11-311	Requires each county board of supervisors to appoint an honorably discharged veteran to oversee the final disposition of indigent veterans and their spouses. The person appointed must ensure that arrangements conform to the proper practices for veterans and that, if burial occurs, the burial is made in a veterans cemetery or portion of a cemetery designated for veterans.
Alaska	None Found	N/A
Arizona	None Found	N/A
Arkansas	None Found	N/A
California	Cal. Military and Veterans Code §929	Provides that necessary expenses for burial or cremation of any indigent veteran may be paid from public funds. Maximum \$350.
Colorado	None Found	N/A
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. §27-118	Requires the state to pay \$1,800 toward funeral expenses for any veteran who dies without sufficient estate.
Delaware	Del. Code Ann. tit. 31, §110	Allows an indigent person's remains to be buried at public expense on the order of the division of social services. Compensation will be reduced by the amount of any funds available from federal benefits or insurance.
Florida	None Found	N/A
Georgia	None Found	N/A
Hawaii	Hawaii Rev. Stat. §363-2	Requires the office of veterans services to act on behalf of deceased veterans found to be indigent at the time of death and without immediate family members to ensure burial or cremation services are provided.
Idaho	None Found	N/A
Illinois	Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 55, §§5/5-27001 <i>et seq.</i>	Requires each county board to designate a person to ensure proper burial of any honorably discharged veteran who dies without sufficient funds to defray funeral expenses. Applies to relatives of deceased veteran. Maximum \$900.
Indiana	Ind. Code §§10-17-10-0.2	Provides for up to \$1,000 in burial allowance after death of an honorably discharged veteran, or the spouse or surviving spouse of such veteran.
Iowa	Iowa Code §35B.14	Allows the board of supervisors for each county commission on veterans affairs to appropriate money for funeral expenses of

		indigent veterans, as well as their spouses, surviving spouses and children under age 18.
Kansas	Kan. Stat. Ann. §73-304	Declares it the duty of the county commissioners in each county to arrange for proper interment of honorably discharged veterans, or the spouse or parent of such veteran, who dies without leaving sufficient means to defray funeral expenses.
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. §§40.355 <i>et seq.</i>	Establishes the Indigent Veterans Burial Program and a corresponding fund to defray funeral expenses for indigent veterans. This includes burial or cremation and burial honors. Funds may also be used to reimburse a veterans service organization.
Louisiana	None Found	N/A
Maine	None Found	N/A
Maryland	None Found	N/A
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 115, §8	Allows the commissioner of veterans services to authorize the burial agent of a city or town to arrange for proper interment of an indigent veteran who dies within the commonwealth.
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws §§35.801 <i>et seq.</i>	Requires the county board of commissioners or the board of county auditors to pay \$300 towards funeral expenses for veterans, spouses and surviving spouses who die possessed of an estate valued under a specified amount.
Minnesota	None Found	N/A
Mississippi	None Found	N/A
Missouri	None Found	N/A
Montana	None Found	N/A
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. §80-102	Requires county veterans service committees to contribute a certain amount for expenses of last illness and burial when a veteran or surviving spouse dies leaving no next of kin.
Nevada	None Found	N/A
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §165:16	Requires the overseers of public welfare to arrange for burial or cremation of any veteran who received a discharge other than dishonorable who dies without leaving sufficient means to defray funeral expenses. Costs covered by the municipality in which the veteran died.
New Jersey	N.J. Rev. Stat. §38:17-1	Requires each county to designate a proper authority to arrange for burial or cremation of any honorably discharged veteran who dies without leaving sufficient funds to defray funeral expenses. Maximum \$1,250.
New Mexico	N.M. Admin. Code §8.106.502	Authorizes the human services department to provide up to \$200 towards funeral expenses if the deceased's available resources are insufficient to pay for the funeral and no other legally responsible relative or organization will cover the cost.
New York	N.Y. General Municipal Law §148	Requires the board of supervisors in each county to designate a person, association or commission to arrange for proper burial or cremation of any veteran or the parent, spouse, surviving spouse, or minor child of such veteran, who dies without the means to defray funeral expenses.
North Carolina	None Found	N/A
North Dakota	None Found	N/A
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §5901.25	Requires county veterans service commissions to arrange for proper burial or cremation of any veteran or the parent, spouse, or surviving spouse of such veteran, who dies without the means to defray funeral expenses.

Oklahoma	None Found	N/A
Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. §408.730	Provides for a sum not exceeding \$100 to pay the funeral expenses of an indigent veteran and other relatives.
Pennsylvania	Pa. Cons. Stat. tit. 16, §§1908 <i>et seq.</i>	Directs counties to contribute \$75-\$100 towards the funeral expenses of any deceased veteran or spouse of a deceased veteran regardless of his or her financial situation.
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws §§30-25-1 <i>et seq.</i>	Requires cities and towns to designate a proper person to arrange for burial or cremation of any honorably discharged veteran who dies within the state without leaving sufficient funds to defray funeral expenses. Maximum \$55.
South Carolina	None Found	N/A
South Dakota	S.D. Codified Laws Ann. §§33A-5-1 <i>et seq.</i>	Provides that any veteran or veteran's spouse will be buried at the expense of the state in situations where both the estate and any relatives are unable to defray funeral expenses. Maximum \$100.
Tennessee	None Found	N/A
Texas	None Found	N/A
Utah	None Found	N/A
Vermont	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 33, §2301	Authorizes the state agency of human services to arrange and pay for the funeral of an honorably discharged veteran who died without sufficient assets to cover such expense.
Virginia	None Found	N/A
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code §73.08.070	Requires the legislative body for each county to designate a proper authority to arrange for burial or cremation of any indigent veteran or family member who dies without leaving sufficient funds to defray funeral expenses. The cost may not exceed the amount set by the county legislative body, but may not be less than \$300.
West Virginia	None Found	N/A
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. §45.61	Provides that expenses incident to the burial of a veteran in a veterans cemetery will be paid by the state if the estate is insufficient.
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. §19-14-108	Provides for burial of indigent veterans in the veterans cemetery at no charge. Applies to veterans who received any discharge other than dishonorable.