

SENATE COMMITTEE VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Interim Study 15-63 Honorable Interment of Indigent Veterans

October 20, 2015



HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

“Honor to the soldier and sailor
everywhere, who bravely bears his
country's cause.”

Abraham Lincoln

STATES THAT DO NOT PROVIDE FOR THE BURIAL OR CREMATION OF INDIGENT VETERANS

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas

Colorado

Florida

Georgia

Idaho

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Montana

Nevada

North Carolina

North Dakota

Oklahoma

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Virginia

**WHAT ARE
OTHER STATES
DOING?**

ALABAMA

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.

CALIFORNIA

Provides that necessary expenses for burial or cremation of any indigent veteran may be paid from public funds. Maximum \$350.

CONNECTICUT

Requires the state to pay \$1,800 toward funeral expenses for any veteran who dies without sufficient estate.

DELAWARE

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.

INDIANA

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.

KENTUCKY

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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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.

VERMONT

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.

WISCONSIN

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.

WHAT CAN OKLAHOMA DO?

- ▶ Oklahoma can guarantee that every Veteran, regardless of financial status, receives a dignified burial or cremation.
- ▶ Recruit organizations to participate in an Indigent Veteran Interment Program.
- ▶ Make sure no Veteran is ever buried in any cemetery designated for paupers or indigent.