

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2696

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase assistance for veterans interred in cemeteries other than national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Dignified  
5 Burial Assistance Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS IN-**  
7 **TERRED IN CEMETERIES OTHER THAN NA-**  
8 **TIONAL CEMETERIES.**

9 (a) INCREASE IN PLOT OR INTERMENT ALLOW-  
10 ANCE.—Section 2303(b) of title 38, United States Code,

1 is amended by striking “\$300” each place it appears and  
2 inserting “\$400”.

3 (b) REPEAL OF TIME LIMITATION FOR STATE FILING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERMENT COSTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section  
6 3.1604(d)(2) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, shall have no further force or effect as it  
7 pertains to unclaimed remains of a deceased veteran.  
8

9 (2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—Paragraph  
10 (1) shall apply with respect to a claim for reimbursement  
11 filed on or after October 1, 2006.

12 (c) GRANTS FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF  
13 STATE VETERANS’ CEMETERIES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section  
15 2408 of such title is amended to read as follows:

16 “(a)(1) Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary may  
17 make grants to any State to assist the State in any of  
18 the following:

19 “(A) Establishing, expanding, or improving a  
20 veterans’ cemetery owned by the State.

21 “(B) Operating and maintaining such a cemetery.  
22

23 “(2) Any such grant may be made only upon submission  
24 of an application to the Secretary in such form and

1 manner, and containing such information, as the Sec-  
2 retary may require.”.

3 (2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AWARDED.—Sub-  
4 section (e) of such section is amended—

5 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “Amounts”;  
6 and

7 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
8 paragraph:

9 “(2) In any fiscal year, the aggregate amount of  
10 grants awarded under this section for the purposes speci-  
11 fied in subsection (a)(1)(B) may not exceed \$5,000,000.”.

12 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section  
13 is further amended—

14 (A) in subsection (b)—

15 (i) by striking “Grants under this sec-  
16 tion” and inserting “A grant under this  
17 section for the purposes described in sub-  
18 section (a)(1)(A)”;

19 (ii) by striking “a grant under this  
20 section” each place it appears and insert-  
21 ing “such a grant”; and

22 (B) in each of subsections (d)(1) and  
23 (f)(1), by inserting “, or in operating and main-  
24 taining a veterans’ cemetery,” after “veterans’  
25 cemetery”.

1           (4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
2           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3           retary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations  
4           to carry out the amendments made by this sub-  
5           section.

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