

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2822

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Mr. TOOMEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in 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 “Dignified Interment  
5       of Our Veterans Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON**  
2 **MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UN-**  
3 **CLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NA-**  
4 **TIONAL CEMETERIES.**

5 (a) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than  
6 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

8 (1) complete a study on matters relating to the  
9 interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in na-  
10 tional cemeteries under the control of the National  
11 Cemetery Administration; and

12 (2) submit to Congress a report on the findings  
13 of the Secretary with respect to the study required  
14 under paragraph (1).

15 (b) **MATTERS STUDIED.**—The matters studied under  
16 subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

17 (1) Determining the scope of issues relating to  
18 unclaimed remains of veterans, including an esti-  
19 mate of the number of unclaimed remains of vet-  
20 erans.

21 (2) Assessing the effectiveness of the proce-  
22 dures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for  
23 working with persons or entities having custody of  
24 unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of un-  
25 claimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries

1 under the control of the National Cemetery Adminis-  
2 tration.

3 (3) Assessing State and local laws that affect  
4 the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed re-  
5 mains of veterans in national cemeteries under the  
6 control of the National Cemetery Administration.

7 (4) Developing recommendations for such legis-  
8 lative or administrative action as the Secretary con-  
9 siders appropriate.

10 (c) METHODOLOGY.—

11 (1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In es-  
12 timating the number of unclaimed remains of vet-  
13 erans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may re-  
14 view such subset of applicable entities as the Sec-  
15 retary considers appropriate, including a subset of  
16 funeral homes and coroner offices that possess un-  
17 claimed veterans remains.

18 (2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL  
19 LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under sub-  
20 section (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample  
21 of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary  
22 considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applica-  
23 ble State and local laws.

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