

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1338

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Dignified Interment
3 of Our Veterans Act of 2015”.

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

8 (a) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than
9 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

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

15 (2) submit to Congress a report on the findings
16 of the Secretary with respect to the study required
17 under paragraph (1).

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

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

24 (2) Assessing the effectiveness of the proce-
25 dures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for
26 working with persons or entities having custody of

1 unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of un-
2 claimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries
3 under the control of the National Cemetery Adminis-
4 tration.

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

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

12 (c) METHODOLOGY.—

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

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

1 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO**
2 **SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES OF DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Ac-
5 countability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C.
6 703 note) is amended by striking the period at the end
7 and inserting the following: “, of which, during fiscal year
8 2016, not more than an aggregate amount of \$2,000,000
9 may be paid to employees of the Department of Veterans
10 Affairs who are members of the Senior Executive Serv-
11 ice.”.

Passed the House of Representatives November 16,
2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.