

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 6, 2022

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
5 BILL NO. 1067

6 By: Hardin (Tommy), Boles,  
7 Fugate, Luttrell, and  
8 Provenzano of the House

9 and

10 Simpson of the Senate

11 **[ veterans - program to ensure dignified burial for**  
12 **certain veterans - codification - effective date ]**

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 35 of Title 72, unless there is  
16 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Dignity in  
18 Burial Act".

19 B. The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish  
20 a program to ensure a dignified burial for honorably discharged  
21 veterans of the United States Armed Forces who, prior to death,  
22 lacked the financial capacity to prepare for or to provide for an  
23 interment or cremation befitting a veteran of the United States  
24 Armed Forces. The program shall aid in obtaining any available  
burial benefits from the United States Department of Veterans

1 Affairs or through private organizations. The program shall provide  
2 a burial grant for any veteran or any person who qualifies for  
3 reimbursement, as determined by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
4 Affairs, for unpaid expenses directly resulting from interment or  
5 cremation. The maximum amount of reimbursement, not including  
6 private funds, shall not exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per  
7 application.

8 C. Eligibility requirements for the program shall be as  
9 follows:

10 1. The deceased shall be a veteran as defined in Section 2 of  
11 Title 72 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

12 2. The veteran shall have died in Oklahoma;

13 3. The veteran shall not have been in the custody of the  
14 Department of Corrections at the time of death;

15 4. The applicant shall provide documentation establishing the  
16 burial location of the deceased veteran's remains in a cemetery or  
17 the location where the deceased veteran's cremains have been  
18 permanently placed;

19 5. The applicant shall provide documentation establishing that  
20 the deceased veteran was provided an appropriate casket if the  
21 deceased veteran was interred; and

22 6. The applicant shall provide documentation establishing that  
23 the deceased veteran received a proper memorial headstone or marker  
24 at the place of his or her interment as provided in 38 U.S.C.,

1 Section 2306 or that a memorial headstone or marker meeting the same  
2 physical standards for size, material, composition, placement, and  
3 informational content was provided in the event the deceased veteran  
4 did not qualify under the provisions of 38 U.S.C., Section 2306.

5 D. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of  
6 Veterans Affairs or his or her designee shall make final approval of  
7 the Dignity in Burial Act applications, shall determine whether the  
8 deceased meets eligibility criteria, and may approve funds to  
9 reimburse the costs of interment or cremation.

10 E. Reimbursement shall be paid from the Indigent Veteran  
11 Burial Revolving Fund provided in Section 34 of Title 72 of the  
12 Oklahoma Statutes. If there are insufficient resources in the  
13 Indigent Veteran Burial Revolving Fund, payment shall be made from  
14 the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Revolving Fund.

15 F. An application process for the implementation of this  
16 program shall be developed by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
17 Affairs.

18 G. Rules for the implementation of this program shall be  
19 promulgated by the Oklahoma Veterans Commission.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

21 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
22 April 6, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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