

CHAPTER 69

Original House Bill No. 400

VETERANS' CEMETERY

AN ACT to create W.S. 19-6-108 relating to a veterans' cemetery; authorizing the veterans affairs commission to acquire a site for a veterans' cemetery; specifying commission powers and duties with respect thereto; specifying eligibility requirements for burial in such cemetery; requiring recommendations to the legislature; and providing for an effective date.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

**Section 1.** W.S. 19-6-108 is created to read:

**19-6-108. Veterans' cemetery; acquisition and maintenance; eligibility for burial.**

(a) The veterans affairs commission may acquire a site in this state to be used to establish a cemetery for the interment of Wyoming veterans of the United States armed forces and for next of kin of eligible veterans. The approval of the local governing body of the county in which the proposed site is located shall be obtained prior to any acquisition of land for this purpose. The veterans affairs commission is empowered to receive any lands granted to the state or any of its political subdivisions.

(b) The veterans affairs commission shall supervise, maintain and control a veterans' cemetery established under this section, and it may employ necessary personnel for this purpose, and the salaries of required personnel may be provided in the annual state budget. All employees shall be under the state personnel system.

(c) Any veteran who received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States and was a legal resident of the state of Wyoming at the time of entering the military service or at the time of his death is eligible for burial in the state veterans' cemetery.

(d) Any qualified veteran, or next of kin, may apply for a burial plot in the state veterans' cemetery by submitting a request to the veterans affairs commission on forms to be supplied by the commission. The commission shall allot available burial plots, on a first come, first served basis. There shall be no charge made for any burial plot and the interment provided to any eligible veteran.

(e) Any member of the immediate family of a veteran who qualifies for burial as provided in subsection (c) of this section may also qualify for burial in the state veterans' cemetery, if the interment of the family member is in the same burial plot as that provided for the veteran and the interment is either above or below the veteran. The veterans affairs commission may establish a fee for burial of family members, not to exceed the actual cost of the interment. The commission may accept the social security burial allowance in the amount not to exceed the actual cost of the interment.

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**Section 2.**

(a) Prior to February 1, 1982, the veterans affairs commission shall submit to the legislative management council for preparation and consideration by the legislature in 1982 the commission's recommendations concerning:

- (i) The site for a state veterans' cemetery; and
- (ii) The funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this act.

**Section 3.** This act is effective May 20, 1981.

Approved March 3, 1981.