SENATE BILL 490

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2 3	Department of Veterans Affairs – Burial in State Veterans' Cemeteries – Spouses and Dependents
4 5 6 7	FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Department of Veterans Affairs from charging the cost for opening and closing the burial plot when burying a spouse or dependent of a veteran at a State veterans' cemetery; and generally relating to State veterans' cemeteries.
8 9 10 11 12	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – State Government Section 9–906 Annotated Code of Maryland (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)
13 14	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
15	Article - State Government
16	9–906.
17	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
18 19	(2) "State veterans' cemetery" means a cemetery that the Department establishes under this section.
20 21	(3) In this section and in § 9–907 of this subtitle, "veteran" means an individual who:
22	(i) served other than dishonorably on active duty in the armed

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

forces of the United States; or

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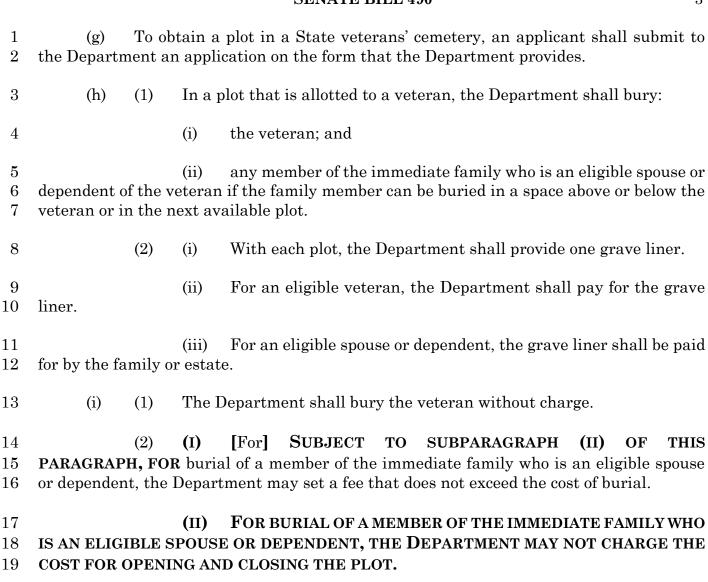
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(iii)

compelling, the Department waives the time period.

1 served other than dishonorably as a member of the State militia (ii) 2 ordered into active service of the United States by order of the President and was killed in 3 the line of duty. 4 "Washington Cemetery" means the Civil War cemetery grounds **(4)** authorized by Chapter 213 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1870. 5 6 The Department may establish one or more cemeteries in the State for the 7 burial of veterans and their eligible spouse or dependents as authorized by the Secretary. The Department may accept land, on behalf of the State or a political 8 (c) 9 subdivision of the State, or otherwise acquire land for a State veterans' cemetery, if the Department has the approval of: 10 11 (1) the governing body of the county where the State veterans' cemetery is 12 to be located; 13 the delegation in the General Assembly for the county where the State veterans' cemetery is to be located; and 14 the Board of Public Works. 15 (3)16 (d) (1) The Department shall maintain and supervise each State veterans' 17 cemetery. 18 The Washington Cemetery shall be under the supervision of the (2) Department. 19 20 The Department shall provide a plot in a State veterans' cemetery, without 21charge, to a veteran who meets the requirements of this section. 22 (f) To qualify for a plot in a State veterans' cemetery: 23 the applicant must be a veteran who meets the requirements for burial 24at a national veterans' cemetery or an eligible spouse or dependent of a veteran who meets the requirements of this subsection; and 2526 if a veteran, the veteran must also have been a resident of the State: (2) 27 (i) when the veteran entered the armed forces; 28 when the veteran died: or (ii)

for 2 years, unless, for a reason that the Department finds



SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED. That this Act shall take effect

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October 1, 2023.