P1 5lr0103 (PRE–FILED) CF HB 138

By: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Veterans and Military Families)

Requested: September 30, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

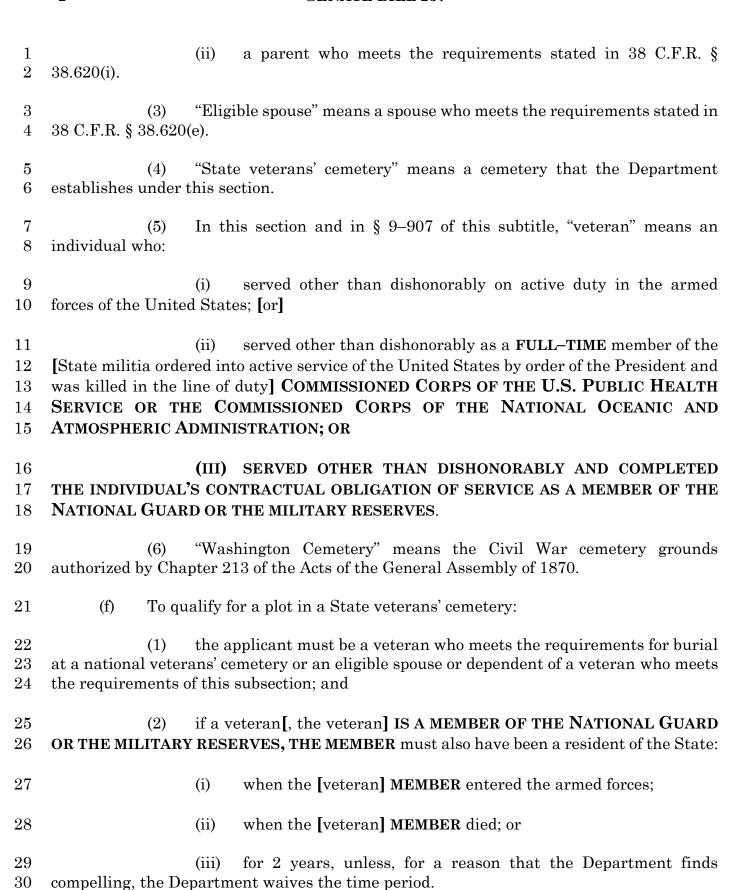
A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2 3	State Government – Veterans – Burial at State Veterans' Cemeteries (Burial Equity Act)
4 5 6 7 8 9	FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility for burial in a State veterans' cemetery to include members of the National Guard and the military reserves; removing the residency requirement for certain veterans for burial in a State veterans' cemetery; establishing a burial fee for National Guard and military reserves service members and their eligible dependents; and generally relating to burial at State veterans' cemeteries.
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – State Government Section 9–906(a), (f), and (i) Annotated Code of Maryland (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
17	Article - State Government
18	9–906.
19	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
20	(2) "Eligible dependent" means:
21 22	(i) a child who meets the requirements stated in 38 C.F.R. § 38.620(e); or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





- 1 (i) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE Department [shall bury the] MAY NOT CHARGE A veteran or eligible spouse or dependent [without charge] FOR BURIAL.
- 4 (2) IF THE INDIVIDUAL BEING BURIED IS A MEMBER OF THE 5 NATIONAL GUARD OR THE MILITARY RESERVES OR THE INDIVIDUAL'S ELIGIBLE 6 DEPENDENT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLECT AT THE TIME OF BURIAL A FEE 7 EQUAL TO THE ANNUAL PLOT ALLOWANCE ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL 8 CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION.
- 9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.