



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

GEORGE W. OWINGS III
SECRETARY

1 March 2022

The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chairwoman
Members of the Committee
Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1251 Department of Veterans Affairs – Burial in State Veterans Cemeteries –
Spouses and Dependents

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

Please allow this letter of information describe the fee structure currently used in our cemeteries and what those fees cover.

When a veteran is buried at one of our state cemeteries, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) pays us \$828.00 for the opening, closing, administrative recording of the death and burial location with federal and state databases and the perpetual upkeep of cemetery. When an eligible spouse or dependent is buried, the exact same thing happens but the USDVA does not pay for it. That cost is currently passed on to the family. This is approximately 1/5 the cost for a burial in a private cemetery (\$4068).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GWO III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George W. Owings III
Secretary

GWO:kss