
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 282 (File 155, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE NEGLECTED CEMETERY ACCOUNT AND CONCERNING CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF WARTIME VETERANS' GRAVES.

SUMMARY

This bill transfers \$100,000 for FY 27 from the General Fund to the neglected cemetery account and allows account funds to be used as grants to municipalities to care for and maintain graves for anyone who served in a time of war.

By law, the Office of Policy and Management may, from the neglected cemetery account, make grants to municipalities for maintaining neglected burial grounds and cemeteries with more than six places of interment. The municipal selectmen may use the funds to clear vegetation, mow lawn areas, repair fences or walls, and fix memorial stones.

Under existing law, municipalities (1) must appoint three veterans to form a committee that is responsible for making sure these graves of those who served in wartime are suitably kept and cared for and (2) are responsible for the cost of caring for and maintaining these graves if the services are not paid for by private individuals or the cemetery trustees. The bill allows municipalities to apply for money available in the neglected cemetery account for grants for these maintenance purposes.

The bill requires the veterans affairs commissioner to make a form, which must be available on the department's website, that people may use to submit information about any of these unmaintained graves. The form must require the individual to include:

1. the burial ground or cemetery name,
2. the municipality where it is located,

3. the name of the person interred in the grave, and
4. any other information the commissioner deems necessary to implement this provision.

The bill requires the commissioner to notify the municipality's chief executive authority within seven days of receiving any submission about a grave located there. The notice must tell the municipality:

1. about the grave and information in the submission;
2. about its responsibilities and any money that may be available to help it comply, including the neglected cemetery account; and
3. to notify the committee described above about the grave and to direct it to take any actions needed for the municipality to comply with the requirements.

The bill also makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

*Senate Amendment "A" adds the provision requiring the veterans affairs commissioner to make a form and send notice to municipalities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 2 (03/10/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/30/2026)