



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 155**

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 282

*Senate, March 24, 2026*

The Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs reported through SEN. HONIG of the 8th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

3 [In each city and town there shall be appointed annually, by the] (a)  
4 The chief executive authority of [the] each city or town [,] shall annually  
5 appoint a committee of three citizens of the city or town, who are  
6 veterans and whose duty it shall be to see that the grave of any person  
7 who served in time of war in the military or naval forces of the English  
8 colonies in America, prior to 1776, or of the state of Connecticut or in the  
9 armed forces of the United States, [shall be suitably kept and] is suitably  
10 cared for and maintained.

11 (b) If the cost of [such care and maintenance] suitably caring for and  
12 maintaining any grave described in subsection (a) of this section is not

13 paid by private persons or by the trustees of the cemetery where any  
14 such grave is situated, [it] such cost shall be paid by the city or town;  
15 and cities and towns are authorized to appropriate money, and to apply  
16 for money available under section 19a-308b, for such purpose. Money  
17 so appropriated, or received under section 19a-308b, may be expended  
18 directly by the city or town or may be paid to the trustees or manager of  
19 the cemetery in which any such grave is [located] situated; but the sum  
20 paid in any year shall not exceed for any such grave the sum usually  
21 charged for the annual care and maintenance of a grave in the same  
22 cemetery or, if no such charge is made in that cemetery, it shall not  
23 exceed the sum charged in other cemeteries in the same city or town for  
24 such service, provided, when any such grave has settled appreciably,  
25 such sum may be exceeded.

26 Sec. 2. Section 19a-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

28 (a) In any town in which there is a burial ground or cemetery  
29 containing more than six places of interment that has been neglected  
30 and allowed to grow up to weeds, briars and bushes, or about which the  
31 fences have become broken, decayed or dilapidated, the selectmen of  
32 such town may cause such burial ground or cemetery to be cleared of  
33 weeds, briars and bushes, may mow the ground's lawn areas, [and] may  
34 cause its fences or walls to be repaired and kept in orderly and decent  
35 condition and its memorial stones to be straightened, repaired and  
36 restored and may otherwise suitably care for and maintain any grave  
37 described in subsection (a) of section 27-123, as amended by this act.

38 (b) No municipality or employee, officer or agent of a municipality  
39 shall be civilly or criminally liable for undertaking the care and  
40 maintenance of a burial ground or cemetery, as described in subsection  
41 (a) of this section.

42 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) The sum of one hundred thousand  
43 dollars shall be transferred from the resources of the General Fund to  
44 the neglected cemetery account established pursuant to section 19a-308b  
45 of the general statutes and credited to such account for the fiscal year

46 ending June 30, 2027. Such funds may be used to make grants to eligible  
47 municipalities for municipal maintenance of neglected burial grounds  
48 and cemeteries, as described in section 19a-308 of the general statutes,  
49 as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	27-123
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	19a-308
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section

**VA**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Transfer from	100,000
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Transfer to	100,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
All Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

**Explanation**

The bill transfers \$100,000 from the General Fund to the neglected cemetery account within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Municipalities may apply to OPM for grants from this fund to maintain the graves of wartime veterans.<sup>1</sup> This results in a potential revenue gain for municipalities beginning in FY 27 to the extent that they receive grants to maintain veterans' graves. It is anticipated that OPM can administer this account within available resources.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of towns that apply for grants to maintain veterans' graves.

<sup>1</sup> This is an existing program that is funded from death certificate fees collected by the Department of Public Health. In 2025, approximately \$296,000 was awarded to municipalities.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 282*****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 (CGS § 19a-308b). 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 are responsible for the cost of caring for and maintaining graves of those who served in wartime 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 also makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' and Military Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 2 (03/10/2026)