



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 282**

February Session, 2026



**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 Section 27-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 Section 19a-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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.*