



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 Section 27-123 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 Section 19a-308 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

APP *Joint Favorable*