

SENATE FILE NO. SF0011

Burials of indigent veterans-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to defense forces and affairs; amending
2 eligibility requirements for indigent veterans in order for
3 counties to request reimbursement for preparing and
4 transporting indigent veterans for burial; specifying
5 indigent veterans who qualify for burial expenses paid by
6 the department of family services also qualify for payment
7 of burial expenses by counties; increasing the amount paid
8 for burial expenses by the department of family services;
9 clarifying priority of payment for burial expenses of
10 indigent veterans; making a conforming amendment; and
11 providing for an effective date.

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13 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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1 **Section 1.** W.S. 19-14-101(a), (b) and by creating a
2 new subsection (d) and 42-2-103(c) are amended to read:

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4 **19-14-101. Burial of indigents.**

5
6 (a) The board of county commissioners of each county
7 shall provide for the preparation of the body and
8 transmittal to and burial in the veteran's cemetery of any
9 veteran other than a dishonorably discharged veteran of the
10 armed forces of the United States ~~who served on behalf of~~
11 ~~the United States in any war or conflict as defined in~~
12 ~~section 101, title 38, United States Code and~~ who dies
13 leaving insufficient funds to defray the necessary funeral
14 expenses. Any veteran that qualifies under W.S. 42-2-103(c)
15 shall also qualify under this section. The amount expended
16 for transporting the body shall not exceed five hundred
17 dollars (\$500.00). The amount paid under this section for
18 burial shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars
19 (\$1,500.00). Each board shall account for the county
20 expenses incurred under this subsection during a fiscal
21 year. By August 1 of each year, a county may request
22 reimbursement by the department of family services for the
23 expenses incurred under this subsection for the preceding

1 fiscal year. The department of family services shall
2 reimburse the expenses in accordance with W.S. 35-1-428(c).

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4 (b) Before assuming charge and expense for
5 preparation and transmittal of the body and burial, each
6 board of county commissioners shall first determine
7 according to procedures they establish that the deceased
8 veteran of the armed forces of the United States whose body
9 they are called upon to bury served in the armed forces of
10 the United States, ~~during World War II or any preceding war~~
11 ~~in which the United States was a party or during the Korean~~
12 ~~or Vietnam conflicts,~~ was other than dishonorably
13 discharged and died in the county leaving insufficient
14 means to defray the necessary funeral expenses.

15
16 (d) Payment made for burial expenses by the board of
17 county commissioners in accordance with this section shall
18 be considered payment of last resort that follows all other
19 sources and is provided subsequent to all other benefits.

20
21 **42-2-103. Provision of assistance and services;**
22 **duties of department; burial assistance; department of**
23 **health state supplemental security income program.**

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2 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
3 article and subject to the availability of funds, the
4 department shall pay the burial or cremation expenses of
5 any recipient of aid under the personal opportunities with
6 employment responsibilities (POWER) program, supplemental
7 security income or Medicaid at the time of his death and
8 without sufficient means in his own estate or other
9 resources to provide burial or cremation. The amount paid
10 under this subsection shall not exceed ~~one thousand dollars~~
11 ~~(\$1,000.00)~~ one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00)
12 after consideration of funds available to the recipient
13 from all other sources. In determining eligibility under
14 this subsection, the department shall not consider as
15 available funds, an amount up to or equal to one thousand
16 five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) of the corpus of a
17 Medicaid qualifying trust meeting the requirements of W.S.
18 42-4-113. No board of county commissioners shall be
19 responsible for any burial or cremation expenses in excess
20 of the amount paid under this subsection. Burial or
21 cremation expenses under this subsection shall not include
22 those expenses relating to cemetery costs.

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1 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

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4 (END)