

# Calendar No. 1436

79TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

} REPORT  
No. 1408

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AMENDING VETERANS REGULATION NO. 9 (A), AS AMENDED, SO AS TO INCREASE THE LIMIT OF AMOUNTS PAYABLE THEREUNDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL OF DECEASED VETERANS

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JUNE 4 (legislative day, MARCH 5), 1946.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. LA FOLLETTE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

## REPORT

(To accompany S. 706)

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (S. 706) to amend Veterans Regulation No. 9 (a), as amended, so as to increase the limit of amounts payable thereunder in connection with the funeral and burial of deceased veterans, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

### EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The laws administered by the Veterans' Administration presently provide a burial allowance for certain deceased veterans not to exceed the sum of \$100. The purpose of the bill is to increase this allowance not to exceed \$150.

The Veterans' Administration with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget recommended in a report to the committee an increase in the burial allowance from \$100 to \$125.

In view of the substantial increase in cost of the several items involved in the expense of a funeral, the increase authorized by this bill appears to be necessary and proper.

Based on the estimated number of burial awards for the fiscal year ending June 1947, the cost of this bill would be approximately \$4,290,000.

The changes in the present law made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is in black brackets; new matter is in italics; existing law in which no changes are proposed is shown in roman):

## Paragraph II of Veterans Regulation No. 9 (a), as amended:

II. Where an honorably discharged<sup>1</sup> veteran of any war, a veteran of any war in receipt of pension or compensation, a veteran discharged from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard for disability incurred in line of duty, or a veteran of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard in receipt of pension for service-connected disability dies after discharge, the Administrator, in his discretion and with due regard to the circumstances in each case, shall pay, for burial and funeral expenses and transportation of the body (including preparation of the body) to the place of burial, a sum not exceeding ~~[\$100]~~ \$150 to cover such items and to be paid to such person or persons as may be prescribed by the Administrator. The Administrator may, in his discretion, make contracts for burial and funeral services within the limits of the amount herein allowed without regard to the laws prescribing advertisement for proposals for supplies and services for the Veterans' Administration. No deduction shall be made from the burial allowance because of any contribution from any source toward the burial and funeral (including transportation) unless the amount of expenses incurred is covered by the amount actually paid for burial and funeral (including transportation) purposes by a State, county, or other political subdivision, workmen's compensation commission, State industrial accident board, employer, burial association, or Federal agency: *Provided*, That no claim shall be allowed for more than the difference between the entire amount of the expenses incurred, and the amount paid by any or all of the foregoing agencies or organizations: *Provided further*, That nothing herein shall be construed to cause the denial of or a reduction in the amount of the burial allowance otherwise payable because of a cash contribution made by a burial association to any person other than the person rendering burial and funeral services: *And provided further*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed so as to cause payment of the burial allowance or any part thereof in any case where specific provision is otherwise made for payment of expenses of funeral, transportation, and interment under any other Act.

## Paragraph III of Veterans Regulation No. 9 (a), as amended:

III. Where death occurs in a Veterans' Administration facility within the continental limits of the United States, the Veterans' Administration will (a) assume the actual cost (not to exceed ~~[\$100]~~ \$150) of burial and funeral, and (b) transport the body to the place of burial within the continental limits of the United States or to the place of burial in Alaska if the veteran was a resident of Alaska and had been brought to the United States as beneficiary of the Veterans' Administration for hospital or domiciliary care. Where a veteran dies while hospitalized under authority of the Veterans' Administration in a Territory or possession of the United States the Veterans' Administration will (a) assume the actual cost (not to exceed ~~[\$100]~~ \$150) of burial and funeral, and (b) transport the body to the place of burial within the Territory or possession.

<sup>1</sup> NOTE.—Section 1503 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, Public Law 346, 78th Cong., June 22, 1944, as amended, provides as follows:

"Sec. 1503. A discharge or release from active service under conditions other than dishonorable shall be a prerequisite to entitlement to veterans' benefits provided by this act or Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, as amended."