#### 38:17-2.1

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF:** 2013 **CHAPTER:** 238

NJSA: 38:17-2.1 (Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time of war; clarifies role

of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans; provides additional funding, subject to availability, for burial of

indigent veterans)

BILL NO: A1898 (Substituted for S1075)

**SPONSOR(S)** Albano and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** January 10, 2012

**COMMITTEE:** ASSEMBLY: Military and Veterans' Affairs

Appropriations

**SENATE:** Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** ASSEMBLY: January 13, 2014

**SENATE:** January 9, 2014

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** January 17, 2014

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:** 

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Second reprint enacted)

Yes

A1898

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT**: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes Military

Appropriations

**SENATE:** Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: Yes 2-20-13

12-23-13

S1075

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of introduced bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No

**SENATE:** Yes Military

Budget

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

(continued)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE:	No			
VETO MESSAGE: GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	No No			
FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:  To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <a href="mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org">mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org</a>				
REPORTS:	No			
HEARINGS:	No			
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes			

2-20-13 12-23-13

"Aid for veterans and changes to Megan's Law among the 100 bills Christie signed," Burlington County Times, 1-23-13.

LAW/RWH

#### P.L.2013, CHAPTER 238, approved January 17, 2014 Assembly, No. 1898 (Second Reprint)

AN ACT concerning the burial of indigent veterans, amending R.S.38:17-1, R.S.38:17-3 and R.S.38:17-4, and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes.

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**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

#### 1. R.S.38:17-1 is amended to read as follows:

38:17-1. The board of chosen freeholders in each of the counties shall designate a proper authority, other than that designated by law for the care of paupers and the custody of criminals, who shall cause to be interred the bodies of all honorably discharged [soldiers, sailors, marines or nurses who served, or shall have served, in the Army or Navy of the United States in time of emergency, or during any war in which the United States has been engaged, is engaged or shall be engaged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the bodies of all honorably discharged members of the American Merchant Marine who served during World War II and have been declared by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits, who [shall] die without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses. The expense of such funeral shall not exceed in any case the sum of [\$250.00] \$1,250 for burial or cremation.

[Such authority shall also, upon application by an interested party, cause to be interred the bodies of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in active service during the second World War, or in time of emergency. The expense of such interment shall not in any case exceed the sum of \$50.00.

As used in this act the term "in time of emergency" shall mean and include any time (a) after June 23, 1950, and prior to January 31, 1955, and (b) during the period in which warlike conditions exist in the southeast Asia area commencing as of January 1, 1961 and terminating on May 7, 1975.

For the purposes of this act active service in the "southeast Asia area" means and includes such service in any area in southeast Asia in which armed conflict or warlike conditions exist as determined by the President and includes not only land based service in said area but also service in said area with the United States Navy and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 7, 2013.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Senate SBA committee amendments adopted December 12, 2013.

Air Force regardless of where the individual's ship or unit is based. (cf: P.L.1991, c.389, s.11)

2. (New section) The county medical examiner, or a designee, shall be responsible for the positive identification of <sup>1</sup>[the] an<sup>1</sup> unidentified indigent deceased person. The supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall contact the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs upon receipt of an unclaimed indigent deceased person to ascertain whether or not that person was a veteran. The <sup>1</sup>[department shall respond within 24 hours, if possible, but in no case more than 72 hours with] supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall be notified upon determination of <sup>1</sup> the veteran status of the person. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall cause burial or cremation to occur within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

3. R.S.38:17-3 is amended to read as follows:

38:17-3. Any interment provided for by sections 38:17-1 to 38:17-8 of this title shall not be made in any cemetery or plot used exclusively for the burial of pauper dead , but may be made in a county veterans' cemetery or, if appropriate, the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The graves of any such deceased veterans may be marked by a headstone containing the name of the deceased and, if possible, the organization to which he belonged or in which he served. Such headstone [shall cost not more than fifty dollars and ] shall be of such design and materials as shall be approved by the governor, adjutant general and quartermaster general.

4. R.S.38:17-4 is amended to read as follows:

(cf: R.S.38:17-3)

38:17-4. The expense of the burial <u>or cremation</u> and headstone shall be borne and paid by the county in which the deceased shall be resident at the time of [his] death, up to a cost of \$250. The State shall provide additional funds for such expenses, if necessary, through an annual appropriation <sup>2</sup> and subject to the availability of funds<sup>2</sup>. The total cost shall not exceed \$1,250 for burial or cremation.

If in any county there is located a home or other institution for the use, care, shelter and maintenance of such veterans not supported by the county, such county shall not be liable for the burial or cremation expenses and headstones of the deceased, unless the deceased was a bona fide resident of such county at the time of his admission to such home or institution, but the county in which he was resident at the time of his admission to such home or

### **A1898** [2R]

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1	institution shall defray, bear and pay the cost of such burial or
2	<u>cremation</u> and headstones.
3	(cf: R.S.38:17-4)
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5	5. This act shall take effect immediately.
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10	Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in
11	time of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased
12	veterans; provides additional funding, subject to availability, for
13	burial of indigent veterans.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1898

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

#### **Sponsored by:**

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

#### Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Coughlin, Amodeo and C.A.Brown

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans; provides additional funding for burial of indigent veterans.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2012)

AN ACT concerning the burial of indigent veterans, amending R.S.38:17-1, R.S.38:17-3 and R.S.38:17-4, and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes.

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**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. R.S.38:17-1 is amended to read as follows:

38:17-1. The board of chosen freeholders in each of the counties shall designate a proper authority, other than that designated by law for the care of paupers and the custody of criminals, who shall cause to be interred the bodies of all honorably discharged [soldiers, sailors, marines or nurses who served, or shall have served, in the Army or Navy of the United States in time of emergency, or during any war in which the United States has been engaged, is engaged or shall be engaged [veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the bodies of all honorably discharged members of the American Merchant Marine who served during World War II and have been declared by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits, who [shall] die without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses. The expense of such funeral shall not exceed in any case the sum of [\$250.00] \$1,250 for burial or cremation.

[Such authority shall also, upon application by an interested party, cause to be interred the bodies of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in active service during the second World War, or in time of emergency. The expense of such interment shall not in any case exceed the sum of \$50.00.

As used in this act the term "in time of emergency" shall mean and include any time (a) after June 23, 1950, and prior to January 31, 1955, and (b) during the period in which warlike conditions exist in the southeast Asia area commencing as of January 1, 1961 and terminating on May 7, 1975.

For the purposes of this act active service in the "southeast Asia area" means and includes such service in any area in southeast Asia in which armed conflict or warlike conditions exist as determined by the President and includes not only land based service in said area but also service in said area with the United States Navy and Air Force regardless of where the individual's ship or unit is based. **]** (cf: P.L.1991, c.389, s.11)

2. (New section) The county medical examiner, or a designee, shall be responsible for the positive identification of the unidentified indigent deceased person. The supervisor of veterans'

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

#### A1898 MILAM, VAINIERI HUTTLE

1 interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall contact 2 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs upon receipt of an 3 unclaimed indigent deceased person to ascertain whether or not that 4 person was a veteran. The department shall respond within 24 5 hours, if possible, but in no case more than 72 hours with the 6 veteran status of the person. If the person was a veteran, the 7 supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as 8 appropriate, shall cause burial or cremation to occur within 72 9 hours of notification of veteran status.

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- 3. R.S.38:17-3 is amended to read as follows:
- 12 38:17-3. Any interment provided for by sections 38:17-1 to 13 38:17-8 of this title shall not be made in any cemetery or plot used 14 exclusively for the burial of pauper dead , but may be made in a 15 county veterans' cemetery or, if appropriate, the Brigadier General 16 William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The graves of any 17 such deceased veterans may be marked by a headstone containing 18 the name of the deceased and, if possible, the organization to which 19 he belonged or in which he served. Such headstone [shall cost not more than fifty dollars and I shall be of such design and materials as 20 21 shall be approved by the governor, adjutant general and 22 quartermaster general. 23

(cf: R.S.38:17-3)

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- 4. R.S.38:17-4 is amended to read as follows:
- 38:17-4. The expense of the burial or cremation and headstone shall be borne and paid by the county in which the deceased shall be resident at the time of [his] death, up to a cost of \$250. The State shall provide additional funds for such expenses, if necessary, through an annual appropriation. The total cost shall not exceed \$1,250 for burial or cremation.
- If in any county there is located a home or other institution for the use, care, shelter and maintenance of such veterans not supported by the county, such county shall not be liable for the burial or cremation expenses and headstones of the deceased, unless the deceased was a bona fide resident of such county at the time of his admission to such home or institution, but the county in which he was resident at the time of his admission to such home or institution shall defray, bear and pay the cost of such burial or cremation and headstones.

41 (cf: R.S.38:17-4)

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5. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### A1898 MILAM, VAINIERI HUTTLE

#### STATEMENT

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill would provide additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

The bill would require the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs would not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the role of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs in identifying unidentified or unclaimed indigent deceased persons as veterans. The bill requires the county medical examiner, or a designee, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs will no longer be required to identify the unidentified person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs will still be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. The department must respond within 24 hours, if possible, but in no case more than 72 hours, with the veteran status of the person. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

# ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

#### ASSEMBLY, No. 1898

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2012

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 1898.

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill would provide additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

The bill would require the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs would not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial.

Additionally, the bill requires the county medical examiner, or a designee, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs will no longer be required to identify the unidentified person, but will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. The department must respond within 24 hours, if possible, but in no case more than 72 hours, with the veteran status of the person. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

#### ASSEMBLY, No. 1898

with committee amendments

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 7, 2013

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1898, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill provides additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250.

This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial.

The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1075 (1R).

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

In a fiscal note to a similar bill in the prior legislative session, Assembly Bill No. 3662 of 2010, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicated that it was unable to determine the amount of State funds that would be needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA), could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

The Office of Legislative Services noted that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans' Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,200 per

burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$350 reimbursement interment from the federal per Administration. The State pays the remaining \$850 per interment from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2013 appropriations act appropriates \$2.3 million to pay for projected veteran interments in FY 2013. The federal government does not provide direct funding to counties for the burial and cremation of veterans at county cemeteries for county veterans' nor pass through funding via the State for the burial and cremation of veterans at county cemeteries. Thus, to the extent that the State is required to provide funding to counties, for the burial and cremation of indigent deceased veterans, at county cemeteries, the State would incur additional costs of up to \$1,000, (before federal reimbursement) per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the DMVA because the OLS has no information on how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried in county cemeteries annually in the past and cannot estimate how many may die annually in the future.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The amendments omit a provision that would have set a time limit for the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to ascertain whether the indigent deceased person was a veteran and include a provision requiring the department to notify the appropriate party of the deceased's veteran status, as well as making minor technical corrections.

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

[First Reprint]

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1898 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time

of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans;

provides additional funding for burial of indigent veterans.

**Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

#### **Executive Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate – See comments below		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) **concurs** with the Executive Branch estimate.
- This bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.
- To the extent that the State is also required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran.
- The OLS notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements from the federal Veterans Administration. The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain conditions to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits.
- The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.



#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Assembly Bill No. 1898 (1R) of 2012 provides additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war. Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds that would be needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA) could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

Any veteran is eligible for interment free of charge at the Doyle cemetery in New Jersey or the Veterans' Cemetery at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concurs with the Executive Branch estimate. The OLS notes that funding for the burial or cremation of a veteran, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Veterans' Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the DMVA, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2013 Governor's Budget contains an appropriation of \$2.3 million to pay for 2,925 projected veterans interments in FY 2013.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery. To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State

#### FN to A1898 [1R]

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because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

#### SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

# [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 1898

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2013

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1898 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, the bill requires the State to provide additional funding, subject to availability, for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. Thus, this bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.

The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1075 (1R) as also amended and reported by the committee.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The committee amendments clarify that the additional State funds to be provided through an annual appropriation are subject to the availability of funds.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

In a fiscal note to this bill, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any

agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA), could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans' Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2014 appropriations act appropriates \$2.2 million to pay for projected veteran interments in FY 2014.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who have made outlays for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, if documented through filing of a VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery.

To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because the OLS has no information on how many deceased indigent veterans have been provided burial or cremation services by counties in previous years and, thus, is not able to estimate how many may require such services in the future.

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

[Second Reprint]

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1898 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 23, 2013

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time

of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans; provides additional funding, subject to availability, for burial of

indigent veterans.

**Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

#### **Executive Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
State Cost	Inde	terminate – See comments	below

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) **concurs** with the Executive Branch estimate.
- This bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.
- To the extent that the State is also required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran.
- The OLS notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements from the federal Veterans Administration. The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain conditions to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits.



• The Executive Branch could not determine the cost of this bill. The OLS also is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Assembly Bill No. 1898 (2R) of 2012 provides additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war. Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds that would be needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA) could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

Any veteran is eligible for interment free of charge at the Doyle cemetery in New Jersey or the Veterans' Cemetery at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concurs with the Executive Branch estimate. The OLS notes that funding for the burial or cremation of a veteran, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Veterans' Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the DMVA, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2014 Governor's Budget contains an appropriation of \$2.2 million to pay for 3,000 projected new veteran interments in FY 2014.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1,

2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery.

To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# **SENATE, No. 1075**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 2012

Sponsored by: Senator JEFF VAN DREW District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans; provides additional funding for burial of indigent veterans.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



AN ACT concerning the burial of indigent veterans, amending R.S.38:17-1, R.S.38:17-3 and R.S.38:17-4, and supplementing chapter 17 of Title 38 of the Revised Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

#### 1. R.S.38:17-1 is amended to read as follows:

38:17-1. The board of chosen freeholders in each of the counties shall designate a proper authority, other than that designated by law for the care of paupers and the custody of criminals, who shall cause to be interred the bodies of all honorably discharged [soldiers, sailors, marines or nurses who served, or shall have served, in the Army or Navy of the United States in time of emergency, or during any war in which the United States has been engaged, is engaged or shall be engaged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the bodies of all honorably discharged members of the American Merchant Marine who served during World War II and have been declared by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits, who [shall] die without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses. The expense of such funeral shall not exceed in any case the sum of [\$250.00] \$1,500 for cremation or burial.

[Such authority shall also, upon application by an interested party, cause to be interred the bodies of members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died in active service during the second World War, or in time of emergency. The expense of such interment shall not in any case exceed the sum of \$50.00.

As used in this act the term "in time of emergency" shall mean and include any time (a) after June 23, 1950, and prior to January 31, 1955, and (b) during the period in which warlike conditions exist in the southeast Asia area commencing as of January 1, 1961 and terminating on May 7, 1975.

For the purposes of this act active service in the "southeast Asia area" means and includes such service in any area in southeast Asia in which armed conflict or warlike conditions exist as determined by the President and includes not only land based service in said area but also service in said area with the United States Navy and Air Force regardless of where the individual's ship or unit is based. **1** (cf: P.L.1991, c.389, s.11)

2. (New section) The supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall contact the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs upon receipt of an unidentified or unclaimed indigent deceased person to ascertain

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

#### **S1075** VAN DREW

1 whether or not that person was a veteran. The supervisor of 2 veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, 3 shall be notified upon determination of the veteran status of the 4 person. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' 5 interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, shall cause burial or cremation to occur within 72 hours of notification of 6 7 veteran status.

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#### 3. R.S.38:17-3 is amended to read as follows:

10 38:17-3. Any interment provided for by sections 38:17-1 to 11 38:17-8 of this title shall not be made in any cemetery or plot used 12 exclusively for the burial of pauper dead , but may be made in a 13 county veterans' cemetery or, if appropriate, the Brigadier General 14 William C. Doyle Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The graves of any 15 such deceased veterans may be marked by a headstone containing 16 the name of the deceased and, if possible, the organization to which 17 he belonged or in which he served. Such headstone [shall cost not 18 more than fifty dollars and I shall be of such design and materials as 19 shall be approved by the governor, adjutant general and 20 quartermaster general. 21

(cf: R.S.38:17-3)

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#### 4. R.S.38:17-4 is amended to read as follows:

38:17-4. The expense of the burial or cremation and headstone shall be borne and paid by the county in which the deceased shall be resident at the time of [his] death, up to a cost of \$250. The State shall provide additional funds for such expenses, if necessary, through an annual appropriation. The total cost shall not exceed \$1,500 for cremation or burial.

If in any county there is located a home or other institution for the use, care, shelter and maintenance of such veterans not supported by the county, such county shall not be liable for the burial or cremation expenses and headstones of the deceased, unless the deceased was a bona fide resident of such county at the time of his admission to such home or institution, but the county in which he was resident at the time of his admission to such home or institution shall defray, bear and pay the cost of such burial or cremation and headstones.

(cf: R.S.38:17-4)

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#### 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### **STATEMENT**

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Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill

#### **S1075** VAN DREW

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would provide additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

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The bill would require the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs would not exceed \$1,500 for cremation or burial.

7 Additionally, the bill clarifies the role of the Department of 8 Military and Veterans' Affairs in identifying unidentified or 9 unclaimed indigent deceased persons as veterans. Upon receipt of 10 an unidentified or unclaimed indigent person, the supervisor of 11 veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, would contact the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to 12 13 ascertain whether or not that person was a veteran. The department 14 will notify the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical 15 examiner, as appropriate, when the veteran status of the person has 16 been determined. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, 17 18 must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification 19 of veteran status.

# SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1075** 

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 6, 2012

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1075.

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. As amended, this bill would provide additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war. As amended, the bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs would not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial.

Additionally, as amended, the bill requires the county medical examiner, or a designee, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs will no longer be required to identify the unidentified person, but will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

The committee amended the bill to change the additional funds the State would provide for burial or cremation expenses from \$1,500 to \$1,250. The amendments also require the county medical examiner, or a designee, to identify an unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs will not be required to identify the unidentified person.

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

[First Reprint]

# SENATE, No. 1075 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time

of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans;

provides additional funding for burial of indigent veterans.

**Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

#### **Executive Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate – See comments below		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) **concurs** with the Executive Branch estimate.
- This bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.
- To the extent that the State is also required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran.
- The OLS notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements from the federal Veterans Administration. The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain conditions to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits.
- The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.



#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 1075 (1R) of 2012 provides additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war. Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds that would be needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA) could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

Any veteran is eligible for interment free of charge at the Doyle cemetery in New Jersey or the Veterans' Cemetery at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concurs with the Executive Branch estimate. The OLS notes that funding for the burial or cremation of a veteran, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Veterans' Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the DMVA, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2013 Governor's Budget contains an appropriation of \$2.3 million to pay for 2,925 projected veterans interments in FY 2013.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery. To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State

#### FN to S1075 [1R]

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because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

#### SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

# [First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 1075**

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2013

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1075 (1R), with committee amendments.

As amended, the bill requires the State to provide additional funding, subject to availability, for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war.

Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. Thus, this bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.

The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1898 (1R) as also amended and reported by the committee.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The committee amendments clarify that the additional State funds to be provided through an annual appropriation are subject to the availability of funds.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

In a fiscal note to this bill, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any

agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA), could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans' Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2014 appropriations act appropriates \$2.2 million to pay for projected veteran interments in FY 2014.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who have made outlays for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, if documented through filing of a VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery.

To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because the OLS has no information on how many deceased indigent veterans have been provided burial or cremation services by counties in previous years and, thus, is not able to estimate how many may require such services in the future.

#### **FISCAL NOTE**

[Second Reprint]

# SENATE, No. 1075 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 23, 2013

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Extends burial of indigent veterans to those who did not serve in time

of war; clarifies role of DMVA in identifying deceased veterans; provides additional, funding, subject to availability, for burial of

indigent veterans.

**Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

#### **Executive Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>
State Cost	Inde		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) **concurs** with the Executive Branch estimate.
- This bill requires the State to provide funding, in an amount up to \$1,000 per burial, to counties for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve in a time of war.
- To the extent that the State is also required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran.
- The OLS notes that funding for the burial and cremation of veterans, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements from the federal Veterans Administration. The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain conditions to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits.



• The Executive Branch could not determine the cost of this bill. The OLS also is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Senate Bill No. 1075 (2R) of 2012 provides additional funding for the burial or cremation of all indigent veterans, including those who did not serve at a time of war. Under current law, if a war veteran dies without leaving means sufficient to defray funeral expenses, the veteran's county of residence is responsible for burial, up to a cost of \$250. This bill requires the State to cover burial and cremation costs above \$250, but total costs may not exceed \$1,250 for cremation or burial. The bill requires the county supervisor of veterans' interment or the county medical examiner, as appropriate, to identify the unidentified indigent deceased person. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) will be required to ascertain whether or not the person was a veteran. If the person was a veteran, the supervisor of veterans' interment or county medical examiner, as appropriate, must see to the burial or cremation within 72 hours of notification of veteran status.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) indicates that it is unable to determine the amount of State funds that would be needed to meet this need because it is highly unlikely that any agency, including the OMB (and the DMVA) could accurately predict how many New Jersey veterans may die each year without sufficient means to defray funeral costs.

Any veteran is eligible for interment free of charge at the Doyle cemetery in New Jersey or the Veterans' Cemetery at Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concurs with the Executive Branch estimate. The OLS notes that funding for the burial or cremation of a veteran, at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle cemetery, is provided by the State and from reimbursements made to the State by the federal Veterans Administration. According to the DMVA, the current cost of interment at the cemetery is \$1,400 per burial or cremation. Currently, the department receives a \$700 reimbursement per interment from the federal Veterans' Administration. The State pays the remaining \$700 per interment from the DMVA, Direct State Services, Burial Services appropriation. The FY 2014 Governor's Budget contains an appropriation of \$2.2 million to pay for 3,000 projected veterans interments in FY 2014.

The federal government also provides burial and plot interment allowances under certain circumstances to anyone, including counties, who paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, in a private or public cemetery, by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. For service-related deaths, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses

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for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. For non-service related deaths on or after October 1, 2011, the Veterans Administration will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses if hospitalized at the time of death, or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses if not hospitalized at the time of death, and a \$700 plot-interment allowance if not buried in a national cemetery.

To the extent that the State is required to provide additional funding to counties for the burial or cremation of indigent deceased veterans in county cemeteries, the State would incur costs of up to \$1,000 per deceased indigent veteran. The OLS is not able to project the total cost to the State because we do not know how many deceased indigent veterans have been buried by counties each year in the past and, thus, are not able to estimate how many may die each year in the future.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly McCord Clemmensen

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: David J. Rosen

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).