



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number: H. 4953 Introduced on January 25, 2023
Author: B.J. Cox
Subject: State Veterans' Cemeteries
Requestor: House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs
RFA Analyst(s): Vesely
Impact Date: February 12, 2024

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill amends Section 25-11-80 to remove residency requirements for a veteran to qualify for a plot in a state veterans' cemetery. The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will no longer have the ability to waive the residency requirement as it has been eliminated entirely. This bill means that veterans or their immediate family members only need to qualify for burial at a state veterans' cemetery with a veterans' honorable discharge.

This bill will have no expenditure impact for DVA. DVA administers the M. J. Cooper Veterans' Cemetery as the state veterans' cemetery. The agency expects to make the changes stipulated by the bill under the normal course of business. Additionally, any increase in the number of burials at the Veterans' Cemetery is expected to be handled through increased revenue.

This bill may increase Federal Funds revenue dependent on an increase in the number of veteran burials. DVA indicates that the Federal National Cemetery Administration provides a plot allowance for each casket or urn of a veteran. In 2023, this was \$893 and increased to \$948 in 2024.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 25, 2024

State Expenditure

This bill amends Section 25-11-80 to remove residency requirements for state veterans' cemetery plots. Currently, in order to qualify for a plot, an applicant must be a veteran or member of the immediate family of a veteran, and the veteran must have received an honorable discharge and been a resident of South Carolina when they entered the armed forces, when they or the family member died, or for a period of at least five years. Currently, DVA is allowed to waive the residency requirement for a compelling reason. This bill means that veterans or their immediate family members only need to qualify for burial at a state veterans' cemetery with a veterans' honorable discharge.

DVA administers the M. J. Cooper Veterans' Cemetery as the state veterans' cemetery. The agency expects to make the changes stipulated by the bill under the normal course of business

with existing staff and resources. Any increase in the number of burials at the Veterans' Cemetery is expected to be handled through increased revenue. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact for DVA.

State Revenue

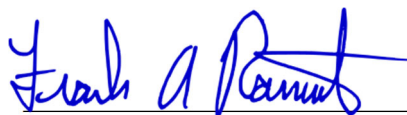
DVA indicates that this bill may increase Federal Funds revenue by codifying practices that make the agency eligible for future federal grants. The Federal National Cemetery Administration provides a plot allowance for each casket or urn of a veteran. In 2023, this was \$893.00. It was changed to \$948.00 in 2024. Any change in the number of burials performed is undetermined. Therefore, any increase in Federal Fund revenues is undetermined. In 2023, DVA performed 340 burials that resulted in a plot allowance disbursement. Also, for information, there are approximately 400 available gravesites in land developed for burials, and an additional 30 acres of undeveloped land that could yield approximately 9,200 additional gravesites.

Local Expenditure

N/A

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director