

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1338

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. HAHN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOK, Mr. MARINO, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. NUGENT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dignified Interment
5 of Our Veterans Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON**
2 **MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UN-**
3 **CLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NA-**
4 **TIONAL CEMETERIES.**

5 (a) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than
6 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

8 (1) complete a study on matters relating to the
9 interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in na-
10 tional cemeteries under the control of the National
11 Cemetery Administration; and

12 (2) submit to Congress a report on the findings
13 of the Secretary with respect to the study required
14 under paragraph (1).

15 (b) **MATTERS STUDIED.**—The matters studied under
16 subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

17 (1) Determining the scope of issues relating to
18 unclaimed remains of veterans, including an esti-
19 mate of the number of unclaimed remains of vet-
20 erans.

21 (2) Assessing the effectiveness of the proce-
22 dures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for
23 working with persons or entities having custody of
24 unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of un-
25 claimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries

1 under the control of the National Cemetery Adminis-
2 tration.

3 (3) Assessing State and local laws that affect
4 the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed re-
5 mains of veterans in national cemeteries under the
6 control of the National Cemetery Administration.

7 (4) Developing recommendations for such legis-
8 lative or administrative action as the Secretary con-
9 siders appropriate.

10 (c) METHODOLOGY.—

11 (1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In es-
12 timating the number of unclaimed remains of vet-
13 erans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may re-
14 view such subset of applicable entities as the Sec-
15 retary considers appropriate, including a subset of
16 funeral homes and coroner offices that possess un-
17 claimed veterans remains.

18 (2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL
19 LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under sub-
20 section (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample
21 of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary
22 considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applica-
23 ble State and local laws.

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