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SENATE BILL 609

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; PROVIDING FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF LAND
PARCELS FOR A STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY; CREATING A FUND;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 28-13-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1977,
Chapter 252, Section 33) is amended to read:

"28-13-1. SHORT TITLE. -- Sections [~~74-1-1 through 74-1-12~~
~~NMSA 1953~~] 28-13-1 through 28-13-12 NMSA 1978 may be cited as
the "Veterans' Service Act". "

Section 2. A new section of the Veterans' Service Act is
enacted to read:

" [NEW MATERIAL] FINDINGS-- STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY FUND
CREATED-- PURPOSE. --

A. The legislature finds that:

underscored material = new
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1 (1) because the federal veterans'
2 administration has no plans to establish or expand national
3 cemeteries in New Mexico and because the space in the Santa Fe
4 national cemetery will be depleted in the near future, the
5 state has an obligation to find land for the establishment of
6 a veterans' cemetery as a suitable alternative for the
7 respectful interment of its veterans;

8 (2) parcels of state land have been
9 identified as possible areas for a future veterans' cemetery,
10 but studies need to be conducted to assess their
11 appropriateness and the feasibility of such a project; and

12 (3) if the state provides the land for the
13 purpose of building a veterans' cemetery, the federal
14 veterans' administration has a state cemetery grants program
15 through which the state could receive financial and
16 maintenance assistance for the building and upkeep of the
17 projected veterans' cemetery.

18 B. The New Mexico veterans' service commission is
19 the state agency responsible for the establishment of a state
20 veterans' cemetery and for the collection and disbursement of
21 all money collected or received pursuant to state or federal
22 law for that purpose and may exercise any power incidental
23 thereto.

24 C. The "state veterans' cemetery fund" is created
25 in the state treasury. The fund consists of all money

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 appropriated to it and all money collected or received by the
2 state for purposes of establishing a state veterans' cemetery.
3 Money in the fund is appropriated to the New Mexico veterans'
4 service commission for the purpose of carrying out the
5 provisions of this section. All earnings of the fund shall be
6 credited to the fund and the fund shall not revert to any
7 other fund. "

8 Section 3. APPROPRIATION.--Fifty thousand dollars
9 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state
10 veterans' cemetery fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2002
11 for the purpose of conducting a study of parcels of state land
12 in Rio Rancho in Sandoval county and other available state
13 lands and to assess their suitability for a state veterans'
14 cemetery. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance shall not
15 revert.