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SENATE BILL 29

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERANS; PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION 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  
[bracketed material] = delete

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

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

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

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

23 C. The "state veterans' cemetery fund" is created  
24 in the state treasury. The fund consists of all money  
25 appropriated to it and all money collected or received by the

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 state for purposes of establishing a state veterans' cemetery.  
2 Money in the fund is appropriated to the New Mexico veterans'  
3 service commission for the purpose of carrying out the  
4 provisions of this section. All earnings of the fund shall be  
5 credited to the fund. Disbursements of the fund shall be made  
6 by warrant of the department of finance and administration  
7 pursuant to vouchers signed by a designated representative of  
8 the New Mexico veterans' service commission. Any unexpended  
9 or unencumbered balance remaining in the fund at the end of  
10 any fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain to the  
11 credit of the fund. "

12 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- Fifty thousand dollars  
13 (\$50,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state  
14 veterans' cemetery fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2003  
15 and subsequent fiscal years for the purpose of conducting a  
16 study of parcels of state land in Rio Rancho in Sandoval  
17 county and other available state lands and to assess their  
18 suitability for a state veterans' cemetery. Any unexpended or  
19 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003  
20 shall not revert to the general fund.