

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5931

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide direct payment to cremation providers for direct cremation designated by veterans prior to death, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide direct payment to cremation providers for direct cremation designated by veterans prior to death, 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 “Veterans’ Cremation
5 Certainty Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT PAYMENT FOR DIRECT CREMATION.**

2 (a) DIRECT PAYMENT FOR DIRECT CREMATION.—

3 Chapter 23 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
4 by adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 2309. Direct payment for direct cremation**

6 “(a) DIRECT PAYMENT.—Upon the death of an eligi-
7 ble veteran who has submitted an application described in
8 subsection (b), the Secretary shall pay the direct crema-
9 tion provider specified in such application the following
10 applicable payment for the cost of direct cremation:

11 “(1) For a veteran described in section
12 2303(a)(2) of this title, such payment shall not ex-
13 ceed the amount authorized under such section and
14 shall be in lieu of any benefit authorized under sec-
15 tion 2302 of this title.

16 “(2) For a veteran described in section 2307 of
17 this title, such payment shall not exceed the amount
18 authorized under section 2307 of this title and shall
19 be in lieu of any benefit authorized under section
20 2307 of this title.

21 “(b) APPLICATION.—An application described in this
22 section is an application to the Secretary in which an eligi-
23 ble veteran elects direct cremation in lieu of benefits under
24 section 2303 or 2307 of this title and specifies a direct
25 cremation provider.

1 “(c) INTEGRATION WITH PRE-NEED ELIGIBILITY
2 PROCESS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall
3 ensure the application process under subsection (b) is inte-
4 grated with the pre-need eligibility determination process
5 (or successor process) pursuant to section 2404 of this
6 title.

7 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) The term ‘direct cremation provider’
9 means a crematory or funeral home that provides di-
10 rect cremation.

11 “(2) The term ‘direct cremation’ means the
12 basic cremation of human remains in a simple con-
13 tainer without embalming, viewing, funeral cere-
14 mony, or inurnment. Such term includes—

15 “(A) transportation of the deceased from
16 the place of death to the direct cremation pro-
17 vider;

18 “(B) a basic container or chosen urn;

19 “(C) delivery of the cremated remains to
20 the next of kin or location of inurnment; and

21 “(D) completion of a death certificate.

22 “(3) The term ‘eligible veteran’ means a vet-
23 eran eligible for benefits under this chapter and for
24 interment in a national cemetery under section 2402
25 of this title.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 for chapter 23 of such title is amended by adding at the
3 end the following new item:

“2309. Direct payment for direct cremation.”.

4 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
6 Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations under section
7 2309 of such title, as added by this section.

8 (d) APPLICATION.—Section 2309 of such title, as
9 added by this section, shall apply with respect to deaths
10 that occur on or after the day that is 180 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act.

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