

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2706

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide priority for the establishment of new national cemeteries by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2015

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. STEWART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide priority for the establishment of new national cemeteries by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 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 National Re-
5 membrance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NATIONAL CEMETERIES**
2 **BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2404 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new subsection:

6 “(i)(1) In selecting a location for the establishment
7 of a new national cemetery under this chapter, the Sec-
8 retary shall—

9 “(A) give priority to a location in accordance
10 with paragraph (2); and

11 “(B) with respect to a location given such pri-
12 ority, ensure that the location is within 10 miles of
13 the location that the Secretary determines likely to
14 have a significant amount of the population to be
15 served by such national cemetery during the 25-year
16 period following such establishment.

17 “(2)(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (C), in
18 selecting a location for the establishment of a new national
19 cemetery under this chapter, the Secretary shall give pri-
20 ority to a State that does not have a national cemetery.

21 “(B) In determining priority among more than one
22 State described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall
23 give priority to the State that has the largest population
24 of veterans.

25 “(C) After any time that the Secretary establishes
26 two national cemeteries in accordance with the priority de-

1 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Secretary may waive the
2 requirements of such priority in establishing the national
3 cemetery that immediately follows such two national ceme-
4 teries if the Secretary determines that such waiver will
5 allow the Secretary to establish a national cemetery that
6 will serve a larger population of veterans as compared to
7 establishing a national cemetery in accordance with such
8 priority.

9 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘national ceme-
10 tery’—

11 “(A) includes—

12 “(i) the cemeteries described in section
13 2400(b) of this title; and

14 “(ii) any traditional or vaulted intern-
15 ments—

16 “(I) located on land that is larger
17 than 20 acres; and

18 “(II) administered and operated by
19 employees of the Department; and

20 “(B) does not include facilities of the National
21 Cemetery Administration that are located in rural
22 areas to serve small populations of veterans (com-
23 monly known as ‘National Burial Grounds’).”.

24 (b) CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (i) of section 2404
25 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection

1 (a), may not be construed as affecting the plans of the
2 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as of the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, to establish National Burial Grounds or
4 National Columbaria.

