

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

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Senate Bill 791 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Harmon Cropsey
Committee: Local Government and Veterans

Date Completed: 4-30-90

RECEIVED

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Mich. State Leg. Library

RATIONALE

Public Act 248 of 1929 provides for the disinterment and removal of the remains of any United States soldier, sailor, or marine for the purpose of re-interring the remains in a cemetery or burial place, or section of a cemetery or burial place, set aside exclusively for the graves of such veterans, or to collect veterans' graves in one common section or plot. Such an action can be taken only upon a petition brought by the Grand Army of the Republic, the United States War Veterans, the American Legion, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or an encampment, post, or chapter of one of those entities. Reportedly, when the Act was signed into law, those were the only veterans organizations that were chartered by Congress. Since there now are other Congressionally chartered veterans organizations, some feel that any such organization should be permitted to petition for disinterment under the Act.

MCL 35.842

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

ARGUMENTS**Supporting Argument**

The Act's provision authorizing the disinterment and removal of veterans' remains only upon the petition of specific veterans organizations is outdated. In order to grant the same authority to other veterans groups now in existence and those that might organize in the future, the Act should allow a petition for disinterment by any Congressionally chartered veterans organization.

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

Fiscal Analyst: G. Olson

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 248 of 1929 to allow a petition for disinterment to be brought by any Congressionally chartered veterans "organization", as defined by the bill, rather than only by the Grand Army of the Republic, the United States War Veterans, the American Legion, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or an encampment, post, or chapter of one of those entities. The bill would define "organization" as a branch, lodge, or chapter of a national organization chartered by Congress, whose membership consisted of individuals who were members of the armed services or forces of the United States.

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

S.B. 791 (4-30-90)