

# SENATE BILL NO. 971

March 17, 2022, Introduced by Senators VANDERWALL, HOLLIER, WOJNO, BIZON, BUMSTEAD, ZORN, HORN, WOZNIAK, DALEY, VICTORY, MACDONALD, LASATA, JOHNSON, RUNESTAD, OUTMAN, HUIZENGA, THEIS, STAMAS, ALEXANDER, GEISS, CHANG, HERTEL, BRINKS, MCCANN, POLEHANKI, SANTANA, MOSS, IRWIN and SCHMIDT and referred to the Committee on Families, Seniors, and Veterans.

A bill to provide for a military veterans cemetery; to create the veterans cemetery fund; to authorize the purchase of land; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state governmental officers and entities.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act may be cited as the "veterans cemetery act".

2           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

3           (a) "Department" means the department of military and veterans  
4 affairs.

5           (b) "Director" means the director of the department.

6           (c) "Fund" means the veterans cemetery fund created in section

1 5.

2 Sec. 3. (1) The department may acquire and purchase land in a  
3 county with a population of not less than 12,500 and not greater  
4 than 13,500 that is suitable for a veterans cemetery or designate  
5 land owned by this state under the jurisdiction of the department  
6 in a county with a population of not less than 12,500 and not  
7 greater than 13,500 as a veterans cemetery.

8 (2) The director shall apply for and accept all grants  
9 available under 38 USC 2408.

10 Sec. 5. (1) The veterans cemetery fund is created in the state  
11 treasury.

12 (2) The treasurer shall deposit money and other assets from  
13 any source in the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the  
14 investment of money in the fund and credit interest and earnings  
15 from the investments to the fund.

16 (3) The department is the administrator of the fund for audits  
17 of the fund. Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year does  
18 not lapse to the general fund.

19 (4) The department shall expend money from the fund, on  
20 appropriation, for 1 or more of only the following purposes:

21 (a) For architectural design or engineering plans, or both,  
22 and any necessary environmental impact studies prescribed by law.

23 (b) Necessary expenses to qualify for federal grants under 38  
24 USC 2408.

25 (c) To prepare land that is acquired or purchased for a  
26 veterans cemetery or designated as a veterans cemetery for  
27 operational use.

28 (d) For ongoing expenses related to the operation of a  
29 veterans cemetery.

1           Sec. 7. (1) The director shall administer a veterans cemetery  
2 created under this act.

3           (2) The director shall comply with federal laws and  
4 regulations in administering a cemetery created under this act.

5           Sec. 9. The legislature shall appropriate sufficient money to  
6 accomplish the purpose of this act.