

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3202

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2012

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that deceased veterans with no known next of kin can receive a dignified burial, 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 “Dignified Burial of
5 Veterans Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FURNISHING CASKETS AND URNS FOR DECEASED** 7 **VETERANS WITH NO KNOWN NEXT OF KIN.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2306 of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as
2 subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection (f):

5 “(f) The Secretary may furnish a casket or urn, of
6 such quality as the Secretary considers appropriate for a
7 dignified burial, for burial in a national cemetery of a de-
8 ceased veteran in any case in which the Secretary—

9 “(1) is unable to identify the veteran’s next of
10 kin, if any; and

11 “(2) determines that sufficient resources for the
12 furnishing of a casket or urn for the burial of the
13 veteran in a national cemetery are not otherwise
14 available.”; and

15 (3) in subsection (h), as redesignated by para-
16 graph (1), by adding at the end the following new
17 paragraph:

18 “(4) A casket or urn may not be furnished under sub-
19 section (f) for burial of a person described in section
20 2411(b) of this title.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (f) and (h)(4) of
22 section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, as added by
23 subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act and shall apply with respect to deaths
25 occurring on or after such date.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS WITH INDUSTRY STAND-**
3 **ARDS FOR CASKETS AND URNS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
7 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
8 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the com-
9 pliance of the Department of Veterans Affairs with indus-
10 try standards for caskets and urns.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
12 (a) shall include the following:

13 (1) A description of industry standards for cas-
14 kets and urns.

15 (2) An assessment of compliance with such
16 standards at National Cemeteries administered by
17 the Department with respect to caskets and urns
18 used for the interment of those eligible for burial at
19 such cemeteries.

