

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2078

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the prohibition against interment or memorialization in the National Cemetery Administration or Arlington National Cemetery of persons committing Federal or State capital crimes is consistently carried out, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of George E. Siple from Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2025

Mr. PERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the prohibition against interment or memorialization in the National Cemetery Administration or Arlington National Cemetery of persons committing Federal or State capital crimes is consistently carried out, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of George E. Siple from Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bertie’s Respect for
3 National Cemeteries Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST INTERMENT OR MEMORI-**
5 **ALIZATION IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AD-**
6 **MINISTRATION OR ARLINGTON NATIONAL**
7 **CEMETERY OF PERSONS COMMITTING FED-**
8 **ERAL OR STATE CAPITAL CRIMES.**

9 (a) RESPONSIBILITY OF APPROPRIATE FEDERAL OF-
10 FICIAL.—Section 2411(a)(2) of title 38, United States
11 Code, is amended—

12 (1) by striking “In the case” and inserting “(A)
13 Except as provided by subparagraph (B), in the
14 case”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 paragraph:

17 “(B) The appropriate Federal official shall take every
18 reasonable action, including by searching public records,
19 to ensure that a person who will be interred in a cemetery
20 in the National Cemetery Administration or in Arlington
21 National Cemetery is not ineligible for such interment by
22 reason of this section.”.

23 (b) AUTHORITY TO DISINTER.—Section 2(c) of the
24 Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act
25 (38 U.S.C. 2411 note) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “this section” and inserting
 2 “subsection (a)”; and

3 (2) by inserting after “Arlington National Cem-
 4 etery” the following: “on or after the date of the en-
 5 actment of such section 2411 and the amendment
 6 made by subsection (b) shall apply with respect to
 7 any such interment or memorialization conducted”.

8 **SEC. 3. DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS OF GEORGE E. SIPLE**
 9 **FROM INDIANTOWN GAP NATIONAL CEME-**
 10 **TERY.**

11 (a) DISINTERMENT OF REMAINS.—The Secretary of
 12 Veterans Affairs shall disinter the remains of George E.
 13 Siple from Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

14 (b) NOTIFICATION OF NEXT-OF-KIN.—The Secretary
 15 of Veterans Affairs shall—

16 (1) notify the next-of-kin of record for George
 17 E. Siple of the impending disinterment of his re-
 18 mains; and

19 (2) upon disinterment, relinquish the remains
 20 to the next-of-kin of record for George E. Siple or,
 21 if the next-of-kin of record for George E. Siple is
 22 unavailable, arrange for an appropriate disposition
 23 of the remains.

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