

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1908

To prohibit performance of military honors and burial benefits to persons convicted of capital crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 1997

Mr. BACHUS (for himself, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, and Mr. EVERETT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on National Security, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, 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 prohibit performance of military honors and burial benefits to persons convicted of capital crimes.

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 “American Hero Protec-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION OF PERFORMANCE OF MILITARY**
2 **HONORS AND PROVISION OF BURIAL BENE-**
3 **FITS UPON DEATH OF PERSONS CONVICTED**
4 **OF CAPITAL CRIMES.**

5 (a) **MILITARY FUNERALS.**—The Secretary of Defense
6 and the Secretary of Transportation, with respect to the
7 Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the
8 Navy, may not provide military honors at the funeral of
9 a person who has been convicted of a crime under State
10 or Federal law for which death is a possible punishment
11 and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without pa-
12 role.

13 (b) **BURIAL IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**—A person
14 described in subsection (a) is not eligible for burial in a
15 national cemetery or for any burial benefit provided by
16 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under chapter 23 of title
17 38, United States Code.

18 (c) **APPLICABILITY OF SECTION.**—This section ap-
19 plies without regard to any other provision of law relating
20 to funeral or burial benefits.

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