

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENDORSING THE NEED FOR A SECOND VETERANS CEMETERY IN EASTERN IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho is the home to more than 132,000 veterans; and
WHEREAS, more than 30,000 veterans live in the Eastern Idaho catchment areas; and

WHEREAS, the nearest veterans cemetery to Eastern Idaho is the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise, Idaho, that is more than 200 miles driving distance; and

WHEREAS, although the Boise Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is a beautiful resting place for Idaho veterans, due to its distance from Eastern Idaho and the population density of the region, the needs of Eastern Idaho veterans and their families are not met by the Idaho State Cemetery in Boise, Idaho; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the state is obligated to provide the land and pay for ongoing cemetery maintenance and operation of a state veterans cemetery; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the federal government shares this belief, and the Department of Veterans Affairs' State Cemetery Grants Service pays 100% of architectural and engineering costs, to include planning, construction, and equipment, for the development of a state veterans cemetery; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the state is obligated to provide 10% architectural and engineering matching funds necessary to qualify for federal funding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the 10% architectural and engineering matching funds will be reimbursed to the state following grant award; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Idaho leaders and the community have identified potential land donations in an effort to meet the state's obligation to provide land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we endorse the need for a second veterans cemetery in Eastern Idaho and that legislation should be adopted to facilitate the exchange of property and to authorize the Division of Veterans Services to accept gifts, grants, contributions and bequests, and to purchase and hold title to property on behalf of the State of Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature should act expeditiously so that no more time passes before Eastern Idaho's veterans are given the respect they are so worthy of receiving.