

Assembly Bill No. 11–Committee on Government Affairs

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to veterans; replacing the phrases “military and naval forces” and “military and naval service” with the phrase “Armed Forces”; revising provisions governing claims prepared, submitted and presented by the Director of the Department of Veterans Services for benefits for veterans, servicemen and servicewomen; removing the requirement that the Director pay a portion of the operating costs of the office of coordinator of services for veterans of a county; requiring the Director to provide training and certification to coordinators of services for veterans who perform duties as a veterans service officer; requiring such coordinators to obtain and maintain such training and certification; requiring the Director to establish, operate and maintain veterans’ cemeteries in this State; providing expressly that the Director is required to establish, manage, maintain and operate veterans’ homes in this State; requiring the Director to serve as the primary public advocate for Nevada veterans; requiring the Director to ensure that volunteers serving as advocates for veterans are assigned to a veterans service officer employed by the Department; requiring the Director to provide certain training to veterans service officers; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Under existing law, certain provisions apply to certain persons: (1) presently serving in the military and naval forces of the United States; or (2) possessing an honorable discharge from a branch of the military and naval service of the United States. (NRS 417.030, 417.090, 417.150, 419.020) **Sections 4, 5, 9 and 12** of this bill replace “military and naval forces” with “Armed Forces” and replace “military and naval service” with “Armed Forces.”

Existing law requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to assist veterans and servicemen and servicewomen in preparing, submitting and presenting certain claims against the United States or any state. (NRS 417.090) **Section 5** revises this requirement to cover any claim for any benefit. **Section 6** of this bill makes a conforming change.

Existing law authorizes the board of county commissioners of any county to create the office of coordinator of services for veterans and requires the coordinator of services for veterans to perform certain duties. (NRS 244.401) Existing law further requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to pay to each county that creates an office of coordinator of services for veterans a portion of the operating costs of the office. (NRS 417.090) **Section 5** of this bill removes the requirement that the Director pay each county a portion of the operating costs of the office of coordinator of services for veterans. **Section 14** of this bill makes a conforming change relating to this removal. **Section 5** of this bill requires the Director to provide to a coordinator of services for veterans training and certification as a veterans service officer if the coordinator of services for veterans performs duties as a veterans service officer, including assisting veterans with filing claims for benefits with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. **Section**



13 of this bill requires such a coordinator of services for veterans to obtain such training and certification. **Section 1** of this bill defines the term “veterans service officer,” with **sections 2 and 3** of this bill making conforming changes.

Existing law requires the Director to establish, operate and maintain a veterans’ cemetery in northern Nevada and a veterans’ cemetery in southern Nevada. Existing law further authorizes the Director to employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of such cemeteries. (NRS 417.200) **Section 5:** (1) relocates and expands this requirement to include establishing, operating and maintaining veterans’ cemeteries in Nevada; and (2) authorizes the Director to employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of such cemeteries. **Sections 10 and 11** of this bill make conforming changes.

Existing law requires the Director to spend money deposited in the Veterans Home Account for the establishment, management, maintenance and operation of veterans’ homes, and certain other purposes. (NRS 417.145) Existing law further requires the Director to take such other actions as are necessary for the management, maintenance and operation of veterans’ homes. (NRS 417.147) **Section 5:** (1) expressly provides that the Director’s duties include establishing, managing, maintaining and operating veterans’ homes; and (2) authorizes the Director to employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of veterans’ homes. **Sections 7 and 8** of this bill make conforming changes.

Section 5 additionally requires the Director to: (1) serve as the primary public advocate for Nevada veterans; (2) ensure that each volunteer serving as an advocate for veterans in a program sponsored by the Department is assigned to a veterans service officer employed by the Department that will offer assistance to the volunteer; and (3) provide semiannual training to each veterans service officer employed by the Department regarding the benefits, services, programs and assistance available to veterans.

EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 417 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

“Veterans service officer” means a person who is certified by the Director and accredited or otherwise officially recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans with filing claims for benefits and related matters.

Sec. 2. NRS 417.009 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.009 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 417.010 to 417.014, inclusive, **and section 1 of this act** have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.



Sec. 3. NRS 417.0194 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.0194 1. Each state agency and regulatory body identified in subsections 2 to 16, inclusive, shall report, subject to any limitations or restrictions contained in any state or federal law governing the privacy or confidentiality of records, the data identified in subsections 2 to 17, inclusive, as applicable, to the Interagency Council on Veterans Affairs. Each state agency and regulatory body shall submit such information for the immediately preceding fiscal year to the Council not later than November 30 of each year and shall provide the information in aggregate and in digital form, and in a manner such that the data is capable of integration by the Council.

2. The Department of Veterans Services shall provide annual statistics regarding:

(a) The distribution of expenditures in this State by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;

(b) The number of veterans who receive care or other services at a veterans' home operated by the State;

(c) The number of interments and other services provided by the veterans' cemeteries in this State;

(d) The total number of veterans service officers who are located in this State, by zip code;

(e) The number of claims filed on behalf of veterans and the family members of veterans by veterans service officers in this State;

(f) The amount of annual payments in the form of disability compensation and pension benefits made to veterans and the family members of veterans in this State as a result of claims filed by veterans service officers;

(g) The number of persons who participate as advocates for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services, by zip code;

(h) The number of employers in this State who participate in a program sponsored by the Department of Veterans Services that facilitates the employment of veterans; and

(i) The number of events held in this State to provide outreach to veterans regarding benefits, claims and services, segregated by the geographical location of each event.

3. The Department of Administration shall provide:

(a) Descriptions of and the total amount of the grant dollars received for veteran-specific programs;

(b) The total combined number of veterans and, to the extent the information is available, widows and widowers of persons killed in



the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, who are employed by each agency in the State; and

(c) The total number of veterans with service-connected disabilities who are seeking preferences through the Purchasing Division and the State Public Works Division of the Department of Administration pursuant to NRS 333.3366 and 338.13844.

4. The State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources shall provide the total number of veterans receiving:

(a) Expedited certification for the grade I certification examination for wastewater treatment plant operators based on their military experience; and

(b) Any discounted fees for access to or the use of state parks.

5. The Department of Corrections shall provide:

(a) An annual overview of the monthly population of inmates in this State who are veterans; and

(b) The success rates for any efforts developed by the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

6. The Office of Economic Development shall provide an overview of the workforce that is available statewide of veterans, organized by O*NET-SOC code from the United States Department of Labor or the trade, job title, employment status, zip code, county, highest education level and driver's license class.

7. The Department of Education shall provide the distribution of dependents of service members enrolled in Nevada's public schools.

8. The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation shall provide a summary of:

(a) The average number of veterans served by a veteran employment specialist of the Department per week;

(b) The average number of initial and continuing claims for benefits filed per week by veterans pursuant to NRS 612.455 to 612.530, inclusive;

(c) The average weekly benefit received by veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS; and

(d) The average duration of a claim by claimants who are veterans receiving benefits pursuant to chapter 612 of NRS.

9. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have applied for and received certification as an Emergency Medical Technician-B, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic through the State Emergency Medical Systems program; and



(b) A report from the State Registrar of Vital Statistics setting forth the suicide mortality rate of veterans in this State.

10. The Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide:

(a) The total number of veterans who have declared themselves as a veteran and who applied for and received a commercial driver's license;

(b) The average monthly total of veteran license plates issued; and

(c) An overview of the data on veterans collected pursuant to NRS 483.292, 483.852 and 483.927.

11. The Adjutant General shall provide the total number of:

(a) Members of the Nevada National Guard using waivers for each semester and identifying which schools accepted the waivers;

(b) Members of the Nevada National Guard identified by Military Occupational Specialty and zip code; and

(c) Members of the Nevada National Guard employed under a grant from Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

12. The Department of Public Safety shall provide the percentage of veterans in each graduating class of its academy for training peace officers.

13. The Department of Taxation shall provide the total number of veterans receiving tax exemptions pursuant to NRS 361.090, 361.091, 361.155, 371.103 and 371.104.

14. The Department of Wildlife shall provide the total number of:

(a) Veterans holding hunting or fishing licenses based on disability; and

(b) Service members holding hunting or fishing licenses who are residents of this State but are stationed outside this State.

15. The Commission on Postsecondary Education shall provide, by industry, the total number of schools in this State approved by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that are serving veterans.

16. Each regulatory body shall provide the total number of veterans and service members who have:

(a) Applied for a license from the regulatory body.

(b) Been issued a license by the regulatory body.

(c) Renewed a license with the regulatory body.

17. Each state agency and regulatory body identified in subsections 2 to 16, inclusive, shall ensure that the form used to collect data from a veteran, including, without limitation, a digital form posted on an Internet website, includes the following questions:



(a) "Have you ever served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?"

(b) "Have you ever been assigned to duty for a minimum of 6 continuous years in the National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?"

(c) "Have you ever served the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service or the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States in the capacity of a commissioned officer while on active duty in defense of the United States and separated from such service under conditions other than dishonorable?"

18. The Council shall, upon receiving the information submitted pursuant to this section and NRS 612.237, synthesize and compile the information, including any recommendations of the Council, and submit the information with the report submitted pursuant to subsection 8 of NRS 417.0195.

19. As used in this section:

(a) "License" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.030.

(b) "Regulatory body" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 622.060.

(c) "Service member" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 125C.0635.

~~[(d) "Veterans service officer" means a person who is accredited or otherwise officially recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to assist veterans with filing claims for benefits and related matters.]~~

Sec. 4. NRS 417.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.030 1. The office of Director of the Department of Veterans Services is hereby created.

2. The Director must be appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

3. The Director shall appoint such deputy directors as are necessary to assist the Director in performing the duties prescribed in this chapter, including, without limitation, a Deputy Director for Programs and Services and a Deputy Director for Health and Wellness.

4. Any person to be eligible for appointment as the Director or the Deputy Director for Programs and Services must:

(a) Be an actual and bona fide resident of the State of Nevada;

(b) Possess an honorable discharge from some branch of the ~~[military and naval service]~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States; and



(c) Have at least 4 years of experience in management or administration.

5. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person to be eligible for appointment as the Deputy Director for Health and Wellness must:

(a) Be an actual and bona fide resident of the State of Nevada;

(b) Possess an honorable discharge from some branch of the ~~{military and naval service}~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States; and

(c) Have at least 4 years of experience in health care management or administration.

➔ If no person is available for appointment who possesses all the qualifications required by this subsection, the Director may waive the qualification set forth in paragraph (b) for a person who is otherwise qualified for appointment pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (c).

Sec. 5. NRS 417.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.090 1. The Director shall:

(a) Assist veterans, and those presently serving in the ~~{military and naval forces}~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada, their spouses, **domestic partners**, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives, in preparing, submitting and presenting any claim against the United States, or any state, for adjusted compensation, ~~{hospitalization,}~~ insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education, ~~{or}~~ rehabilitation **or any other benefit to which they may be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any of the states**, and assist them in obtaining any aid or benefit to which they may ~~{, from time to time,}~~ be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any of the states.

(b) Aid, assist, encourage and cooperate with every service organization recognized nationally or in this State insofar as the activities of such organizations are for the benefit of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen ~~{,}~~ **and the spouses, domestic partners, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors or personal representatives of such veterans, servicemen and servicewomen.**

(c) Give aid, assistance and counsel to each and every problem, question and situation, individual as well as collective, affecting any veteran, serviceman or servicewoman, or their dependents, or any group of veterans, servicemen and servicewomen, when in their opinion such comes within the scope of this chapter.

(d) Coordinate activities of veterans' organizations.



(e) Serve as a clearinghouse and disseminate information relating to veterans' benefits.

(f) Conduct any studies which will assist veterans to obtain compensation, ~~hospitalization,~~ insurance, pension, disability compensation, vocational training, education, rehabilitation or any other benefit to which veterans may be entitled under the laws of the United States or of any state.

(g) Aid, assist and cooperate with the office of coordinator of services for veterans created in a county pursuant to NRS 244.401.

(h) ~~Pay to each county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans, from state money available to him or her, a portion of the cost of operating the office in an amount determined by the Director.~~

~~(i)~~ Take possession of any abandoned or unclaimed artifacts or other property that has military or historical value for safekeeping. The Director may:

(1) Transfer such an artifact or other property to:

(I) The Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical Society, upon its written request, if the artifact or other property has, in the opinion of the requesting institution, historical value and is worthy of preservation; or

(II) Any other governmental agency or nonprofit entity, including, without limitation, a veterans' organization and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, upon its written request, if the artifact or other property was not requested by the Nevada State Museum or the Nevada Historical Society; or

(2) Destroy or otherwise dispose of the artifact or other property.

➔ An action may not be maintained by any person against the holder or former holder of an artifact or other property because of the transfer, destruction or other disposal of the artifact or other property pursuant to this paragraph.

~~(j)~~ (i) Develop plans and programs to assist veterans who have suffered sexual trauma while on active duty or during military training.

~~(k)~~ (j) Create and maintain a statewide database of information relating to veterans to assist the Department in identifying and communicating with veterans and connecting veterans with benefits and opportunities for which they are eligible.

~~(l)~~ (k) Create and maintain a registry of governmental agencies and private entities that provide services and resources to veterans, service members and their families and publish a digital



copy of the registry on the Internet website maintained by the Department.

~~[(m)]~~ (l) Ensure that each generation of veterans is recognized annually through a ceremony, information campaign or other form of public acknowledgment.

(m) Establish, operate and maintain veterans' cemeteries in this State, and may, within the limits of legislative authorization, employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of the cemeteries.

(n) Establish, manage, maintain and operate veterans' homes in this State, and may, within the limits of legislative authorization, employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of veterans' homes.

(o) If the board of county commissioners of any county makes the request required pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 244.401, provide to the coordinator of services for veterans in the county training and certification as a veterans service officer.

(p) If training and certification is requested pursuant to paragraph (o), submit an application, on behalf of the coordinator of services for veterans to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for accreditation or official recognition as a veterans service officer.

(q) Serve as the primary public advocate for Nevada veterans.

(r) Ensure that each person who participates as an advocate for veterans in this State in a volunteer program sponsored by the Department is assigned to a veterans service officer employed by the Department that will offer assistance to the volunteer.

(s) Provide semiannual training to each veterans service officer employed by the Department regarding the benefits, services, programs and assistance available to veterans.

2. The Director shall:

(a) Establish an internal policy for guidance to employees of the Department regarding the transfer, destruction or other disposal of artifacts and other property pursuant to paragraph ~~[(h)]~~ (h) of subsection 1; and

(b) Post the policy on the Internet website maintained by the Department.

Sec. 6. NRS 417.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.100 The Director and each deputy director may:

1. Administer oaths to any person whose acknowledgment may become necessary in the prosecution of any claim for compensation, ~~[(hospitalization,)]~~ insurance or other aid or benefits.



2. Certify to the correctness of any document or documents which may be submitted in connection with any such application.

Sec. 7. NRS 417.145 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.145 1. The Veterans Home Account is hereby established in the State General Fund.

2. Money received from:

(a) Payments made by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who receive care in a veterans' home;

(b) Other payments for medical care and services;

(c) Appropriations made by the Legislature for veterans' homes;

(d) Federal grants and other money received pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147;

(e) Money collected pursuant to the schedule of rates established pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 417.147 for occupancy of rooms at veterans' homes; and

(f) Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, gifts of money and proceeds derived from the sale of gifts of personal property for the use of veterans' homes, if the use of those gifts has not been restricted by the donor,

➡ must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Veterans Home Account.

3. Interest and income must not be computed on the money in the Veterans Home Account.

4. The Veterans Home Account must be administered by the Director, with the advice of the administrators, and except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.147, the money deposited in the Veterans Home Account may only be expended for:

(a) The establishment, management, maintenance and operation of veterans' homes **as required by paragraph (n) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090;**

(b) A program or service related to a veterans' home;

(c) The solicitation of other sources of money to fund a veterans' home; and

(d) The purpose of informing the public about issues concerning the establishment and uses of a veterans' home.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7 and 8, gifts of personal property for the use of veterans' homes:

(a) May be sold or exchanged if the sale or exchange is approved by the State Board of Examiners; or

(b) May be used in kind if the gifts are not appropriate for conversion to money.



6. All money in the Veterans Home Account must be paid out on claims approved by the Director as other claims against the State are paid.

7. The Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada is hereby established in the State General Fund. Gifts of money or personal property which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at the veterans' home in southern Nevada must be used only in the manner designated by the donor. Gifts of money which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at this veterans' home must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada. The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada at the end of each fiscal year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

8. The Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada is hereby established in the State General Fund. Gifts of money or personal property which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at the veterans' home in northern Nevada must be used only in the manner designated by the donor. Gifts of money which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at this veterans' home must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada. The interest and income earned on the money in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada at the end of each fiscal year does not lapse to the State General Fund, but must be carried forward into the next fiscal year.

9. The Director shall, on or before August 1 of each year, prepare and submit to the Interim Finance Committee a report detailing the expenditures made from the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Southern Nevada and the Gift Account for the Veterans Home in Northern Nevada.

Sec. 8. NRS 417.147 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.147 1. ~~The~~ *Subject to the limits provided in paragraph (n) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090, the* Director shall:

(a) Appoint an administrator for each veterans' home in this State. Each administrator must be licensed as a nursing facility



administrator or health services executive pursuant to NRS 654.170
; H

(b) Take such other actions as are necessary for the **establishment**, management, maintenance and operation of veterans' homes in this State, including, without limitation, establishing and implementing rules, policies and procedures for such management, maintenance and operation H ; and

(c) Apply for federal grants and other sources of money available for establishing veterans' homes. A federal grant must be used only as permitted by the terms of the grant.

2. With the advice of the Nevada Veterans Services Commission, the Director shall, on or before April 1 of each calendar year, recommend to the State Board of Examiners a schedule of rates to be charged for occupancy of rooms at each veterans' home in this State during the following fiscal year. The State Board of Examiners shall establish the schedule of rates. In setting the rates, the State Board of Examiners shall consider the recommendations of the Director, but is not bound to follow the recommendations of the Director.

3. The first veterans' home that is established in this State must be established at a location in southern Nevada determined to be appropriate by the Interim Finance Committee. The Interim Finance Committee shall give preference to a site that is zoned appropriately for the establishment of a veterans' home, that affords minimum costs of maintenance and that is located in an area where the members of the families of the veterans can easily visit the veterans' home. The site for the construction of the veterans' home in southern Nevada must be:

(a) Located in reasonable proximity to:

(1) A public transportation system;

(2) Shopping centers; and

(3) A major hospital that has a center for the treatment of trauma which is designated as a level II center by the Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) Not less than 5 acres in area.

4. If an additional veterans' home is authorized, it must be established in northern Nevada.

Sec. 9. NRS 417.150 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.150 1. The Nevada Veterans Services Commission, consisting of 11 members, is hereby created.

2. The Governor shall appoint:



(a) Three members who are representatives of veterans' organizations recognized nationally or in this State and who possess honorable discharges from some branch of the ~~{military and naval service}~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.

(b) One member who is a member of the Women Veterans Advisory Committee created by NRS 417.320.

(c) One member who is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education in this State in a program for a baccalaureate or higher degree and who possesses an honorable discharge from some branch of the ~~{military and naval service}~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.

(d) Two members who are representatives of the general public.

3. The Chair of the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Northern Nevada and the Chair of the Advisory Committee for a Veterans Cemetery in Southern Nevada shall each appoint one member from their respective committees to serve as a member of the Commission. Each member so appointed must be a representative of a veterans' organization recognized nationally or in this State and possess an honorable discharge from some branch of the ~~{military and naval service}~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.

4. The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate to serve as a member of the Commission.

5. The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one member of the Assembly to serve as a member of the Commission.

6. The Governor may remove a member of the Commission at any time for failure to perform his or her duties, malfeasance or other good cause.

7. The term of office of each member is 2 years.

8. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of those members appointed pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2, the Governor shall fill the vacancy from among the names of qualified nominees provided to the Governor in writing by the Director.

Sec. 10. NRS 417.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.200 1. ~~{The Director shall establish, operate and maintain a veterans' cemetery in northern Nevada and a veterans' cemetery in southern Nevada, and may, within the limits of legislative authorization, employ personnel and purchase equipment and supplies necessary for the operation and maintenance of the cemeteries. The}~~ **Subject to the limits provided in paragraph (m) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090, the** Director shall employ a cemetery superintendent to operate and maintain each cemetery.



2. The cemetery superintendent shall, if a veteran does not indicate by testamentary instrument that the veteran desires to have the area immediately above and surrounding the interred remains of the veteran landscaped with xeriscaping, or if an application for interment submitted pursuant to NRS 417.210 does not indicate that the veteran desires to have the area immediately above and surrounding the interred remains of the veteran landscaped with xeriscaping, ensure that the area immediately above and surrounding the interred remains of the veteran in the veterans' cemetery is landscaped with natural grass.

3. A person desiring to provide voluntary services to further the establishment, maintenance or operation of either of the cemeteries shall submit a written offer to the cemetery superintendent which describes the nature of the services. The cemetery superintendent shall consider all such offers and approve those he or she deems appropriate. The cemetery superintendent shall coordinate the provision of all services so approved.

Sec. 11. NRS 417.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:

417.220 1. The Account for Veterans Affairs is hereby created in the State General Fund.

2. Money received by the Director from:

- (a) Fees charged pursuant to NRS 417.210;
- (b) Allowances for burial from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or other money provided by the Federal Government for the support of veterans' cemeteries;
- (c) Receipts from the sale of gifts and general merchandise;
- (d) Grants obtained by the Director for the support of veterans' cemeteries; and

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6 and NRS 417.115, 417.145, 417.147 and 417.410, gifts of money and proceeds derived from the sale of gifts of personal property that he or she is authorized to accept, if the use of such gifts has not been restricted by the donor,

➡ must be deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Account for Veterans Affairs and must be accounted for separately for a veterans' cemetery in northern Nevada or a veterans' cemetery in southern Nevada, whichever is appropriate.

3. The interest and income earned on the money deposited pursuant to subsection 2, after deducting any applicable charges, must be accounted for separately. Interest and income must not be computed on money appropriated from the State General Fund to the Account for Veterans Affairs.



4. The money deposited pursuant to subsection 2 may only be used for the operation and maintenance of the cemetery for which the money was collected. In addition to personnel he or she is authorized to employ pursuant to **paragraph (m) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090 and subsection 1 of** NRS 417.200, the Director may use money deposited pursuant to subsection 2 to employ such additional employees as are necessary for the operation and maintenance of the cemeteries, except that the number of such additional full-time employees that the Director may employ at each cemetery must not exceed 60 percent of the number of full-time employees for national veterans' cemeteries that is established by the National Cemetery Administration of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, gifts of personal property which the Director is authorized to receive but which are not appropriate for conversion to money may be used in kind.

6. The Gift Account for Veterans Cemeteries is hereby created in the State General Fund. Gifts of money that the Director is authorized to accept and which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at a veterans' cemetery must be accounted for separately in the Gift Account for Veterans Cemeteries. The interest and income earned on the money deposited pursuant to this subsection must, after deducting any applicable charges, be accounted for separately for a veterans' cemetery in northern Nevada or a veterans' cemetery in southern Nevada, as applicable. Any money remaining in the Gift Account for Veterans Cemeteries at the end of each fiscal year does not revert to the State General Fund, but must be carried over into the next fiscal year.

7. The Director shall use gifts of money or personal property that he or she is authorized to accept and for which the donor has restricted to one or more uses at a veterans' cemetery in the manner designated by the donor, except that if the original purpose of the gift has been fulfilled or the original purpose cannot be fulfilled for good cause, any money or personal property remaining in the gift may be used for other purposes at the veterans' cemetery in northern Nevada or the veterans' cemetery in southern Nevada, as appropriate.

Sec. 12. NRS 419.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

419.020 1. The county recorders of the counties of this State shall procure books containing suitable blanks in which to record certificates of honorable discharge from the ~~military and naval service~~ **Armed Forces** of the United States.



2. The county recorders shall record therein all such certificates as may be presented to them for record, free of any charge therefor, and shall make the customary certificate of such record thereon.

Sec. 13. NRS 244.401 is hereby amended to read as follows:

244.401 1. The board of county commissioners of any county may create by ordinance the office of coordinator of services for veterans. If such an office is created, the board shall appoint a qualified veteran to hold the office and the board shall establish the coordinator's compensation.

2. *If the coordinator of services for veterans performs duties as a veterans service officer, including, without limitation, assisting veterans with filing claims for benefits with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the board of county commissioners of the county must request the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to provide the coordinator of services for veterans training and certification as a veterans service officer pursuant to paragraph (o) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090.*

3. The coordinator of services for veterans shall:

(a) Assist a veteran or the veteran's spouse or dependent, if the person requesting assistance is a resident of the county, in preparing, submitting and pursuing any claim that the person has against the United States, or any state, to establish the person's right to any privilege, preference, care or compensation to which he or she believes that he or she is entitled;

(b) *If the coordinator of services for veterans performs duties as a veterans service officer, including, without limitation, assisting veterans with filing claims for benefits with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and the board of county commissioners of the county has made the request pursuant to subsection 2, become certified as a veterans service officer by the Director of the Department of Veterans Services pursuant to paragraph (o) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090;*

(c) *If a certification is received pursuant to paragraph (b), maintain the certification with the Director of the Department of Veterans Services and accreditation or official recognition with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a veterans service officer;*

(d) Aid, assist and cooperate with the Director of the Department of Veterans Services and with the Nevada Veterans Services Commission;



~~{(e)}~~ (e) Disseminate information relating to veterans' benefits in cooperation with the Director of the Department of Veterans Services; and

~~{(d)}~~ (f) Perform such other services related to assisting a veteran, or the veteran's spouse or dependent, as requested by the board of county commissioners.

~~{3-}~~ 4. Two or more counties jointly may create one office of coordinator of services for veterans to serve those counties.

5. As used in this section, "veterans service officer" has the meaning ascribed to it in section 1 of this act.

Sec. 14. NRS 244.406 is hereby amended to read as follows:

244.406 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the office of coordinator of services for veterans must be supported from money in the county general fund and from any gifts or grants received by the county for the support of the office.

2. ~~{The board of county commissioners of a county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans is authorized to accept funds from the Director of the Department of Veterans Services pursuant to paragraph (h) of subsection 1 of NRS 417.090 for the support of the office.~~

~~—3-}~~ The board of county commissioners of a county that creates the office of coordinator of services for veterans may enter into an agreement with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of obtaining federal matching funds to contribute to the salaries and expenses of the office of coordinator of services for veterans for its activities which are reasonably related to the programs of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and which benefit or result in cost avoidance for the Division.

Sec. 15. The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any additional expenses of a local government that are related to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 16. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2019.

