

CONFIDENTIAL
LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2016

Bill Number: H. 640 Name of Bill: An act relating to expenses for the repair of town cemeteries

Agency/ Dept: ACCD Author of Bill Review: Jess Robinson and Laura Trieschmann

Date of Bill Review: 4/25/2016 Related Bills and Key Players _____

Status of Bill: (check one): ☐ Upon Introduction ☐ As passed by 1st body ☒ As passed by both

Recommended Position:

☐ Support ☐ Oppose ☒ Remain Neutral ☐ Support with modifications identified in #8 below

Analysis of Bill

1. **Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** Other than minor language changes, this bill proposes to remove the \$500.00 cap on municipal cemetery maintenance and repair.
2. **Is there a need for this bill?** Although VDHP is not aware of the budgets needed to keep municipal cemeteries across Vermont in the proper condition, it is likely that \$500.00 is no longer adequate to cover expenses. Many communities need to spend (and may already be spending) more to maintain the headstones and cemeteries, ensuring the burial places are not deteriorated or unsightly, and reflect the proper status of a final resting place.
3. **What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?** There are no fiscal or programmatic implications of this bill for our department.
4. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** Proper maintenance and demarcation of these cemeteries will assure proper separation in the future.
5. **What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?** *(for example, public, municipalities, organizations, business, regulated entities, etc)*
Municipalities will now be free to spend the amount appropriate for the proper maintenance of headstones and cemeteries as the cap of \$500 is no longer required. There is no minimum required however.
6. **Other Stakeholders:**
 - 6.1 **Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?** Relatives of the deceased located within the cemeteries, cemetery associations, historical societies, and genealogical and related researchers would likely support this bill, because it allows for the proper care of cemeteries.
 - 6.2 **Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?** Not known.

Please return this bill review as a Microsoft Word document to Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov & Jessica.Mishaan@vermont.gov

7. Rationale for recommendation: n/a

8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill: n/a

9. Will this bill create a new board or commission AND/OR add or remove appointees to an existing one? If so, which one and how many? No

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document: __Noelle MacKay____ Date: ____April 25, 2016__