
SENATE BILL 5711

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Jacobsen and Benton

Read first time 01/29/09. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the performance of Taps at veterans' funerals;
2 adding a new section to chapter 73.24 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that meaningful and
5 venerated traditions accompany the burial of a veteran, including a
6 live performance of the song Taps. A live performance of Taps at a
7 funeral, alongside other traditional military rites, properly honors a
8 veteran's life and military service at the time of burial. Prerecorded
9 music is an inferior substitute. Therefore, the legislature intends to
10 provide the option of a live performance of Taps at every veteran's
11 funeral.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 73.24 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) Each veteran, as defined in RCW 41.04.007, is entitled to a
15 performance of the song Taps at the veteran's funeral by a qualified
16 trumpeter, without cost or charge to the veteran.

17 (2) The Washington state arts commission shall identify and

1 maintain a list of trumpet players who are qualified to play Taps at
2 veterans' funerals.

3 (3) The department of veterans affairs shall hire trumpeters from
4 the list maintained by the Washington state arts commission and shall
5 pay a fee of one hundred dollars per performance.

--- END ---