

HB 2637 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 03/04/2016

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 27.34
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The Washington state historic cemetery preservation capital
6 grant program is created in the department.

7 (2) The capital grant program is intended to benefit the public
8 by preserving outstanding examples of the state's historical
9 heritage, enabling historic cemeteries to continue to serve their
10 communities, and honoring the military veterans buried within them.

11 (3) Subject to appropriation, grants may be awarded each biennium
12 for construction, renovation, or rehabilitation projects that
13 preserve the historic character, features, and materials of the
14 cemetery, or that maintain or improve the functions of the cemetery.

15 (4) A capital grant award may not exceed fifty thousand dollars,
16 adjusted biennially for inflation. The department may not require
17 applicants to provide matching funds.

18 (5) Eligible applicants for capital grants include cemetery
19 property owners, nonprofit organizations, and local governments.

20 (6) Applications for the capital grant program must be submitted
21 to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
22 The applications must include a history of the cemetery which the
23 department shall maintain on file.

24 (7) The director shall establish a committee to review
25 applications. The committee shall consist of at least five members
26 with expertise or association with historic preservation, cemetery
27 associations, local cemetery boards, and other associations or
28 professional organizations the director deems appropriate. When
29 evaluating and prioritizing projects, the committee shall consider
30 the following criteria:

31 (a) The relative historical significance of the cemetery;

1 (b) Whether the proposed project will result in lower costs of
2 maintenance and operations; and

3 (c) The relative percentage of military burials in the cemetery.

4 (8) The conditions in this subsection must be met by recipients
5 of funding in order to satisfy the public benefit requirements of the
6 historic cemetery preservation capital grant program.

7 (a) The committee shall provide the department a prioritized list
8 of projects for funding. The department and grant recipient must
9 execute a contract before work on the grant project begins. The
10 contract must specify public benefit and minimum maintenance
11 requirements.

12 (b) Grant recipients must proactively maintain their historic
13 cemetery for a minimum of ten years.

14 (c) Public access to the exterior of properties that are not
15 visible from a public right-of-way must be provided under reasonable
16 terms and circumstances, including the requirement that visits by
17 nonprofit organizations or school groups must be offered at least one
18 day per year. Tribal access must be provided under reasonable terms
19 and circumstances to historic cemeteries in which there are Indian
20 burials.

21 (9) Projects must be initiated within one year of funding
22 approval and completed within two years, unless an extension is
23 provided in writing by the department.

24 (10) If a recipient of an historic cemetery preservation capital
25 grant, or subsequent owner of a property that was assisted by a
26 grant, takes any action within ten years of the award with respect to
27 the assisted property such as dismantlement, removal, substantial
28 alteration, or any other action inconsistent with the property's
29 status as a cemetery, the grant must be repaid in full within one
30 year."

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31 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "cemeteries;" strike the
32 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new section to
33 chapter 27.34 RCW."

EFFECT: Replaces review of the grant applications by the Funeral and Cemetery Board and with a committee established by the Director of the Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation. The committee shall consist of at least 5 persons with association or expertise in historic preservation, cemetery associations, local cemetery boards, or other professions and associations the Director deems appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

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