

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3484

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator CRYAN)

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 27, 2023

These Senate amendments revise the bill to remove language requiring the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to develop an Internet-based central reporting system to identify unclaimed veterans' remains to instead require that the New Jersey Electronic Death Registration System (NJ-EDRS) be modified to automatically notify the Adjutant General when the remains of a veteran are cremated. The notice will be issued upon completion of the death record and issuance of the cremation permit, and is to include the decedent's name, last known address, date of death, and date on which the cremation permit was issued.

The Senate amendments require the Adjutant General to use the NJ-EDRS notices to identify funeral homes at which the remains of a veteran were cremated and, on the first day of the thirteenth month after the date the cremation permit was issued, contact the funeral home to request that the funeral home advise the Adjutant General as to whether the veteran's cremains have been claimed. If a funeral home advises that the cremains of a veteran have not been claimed, the Adjutant General will be authorized to assist the funeral home in contacting a qualified veterans' organization to coordinate the release of the remains for final disposition.

The Senate amendments revise a provision of the bill authorizing the Legislature to require the Adjutant General to appear before certain standing reference committees to explain why the bill has not been implemented to include the Commissioner of Health as well, and to revise that section to reflect the provisions of the bill as amended.

The Senate amendments add a new section to the bill directing the Commissioner of Health and the Adjutant General to each adopt rules and regulations as are necessary to implement the bill.

The Senate amendments revise the effective date of the bill to provide that it will remain inoperative until the first day of the seventh month after enactment, and to specify that the Commissioner of Health and the Adjutant General may take advance anticipatory action as is needed for implementation.

The Senate amendments revise the title and synopsis of the bill to reflect these changes.

The Senate amendments make various technical changes to remove gendered language and update punctuation and references appearing in the current statutes.