

2013—Pub. L. 113–66, div. A, title V, § 585(b), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 777, added item 4727.

§ 7721. Authority and responsibilities of the Secretary of the Army

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Army shall develop, operate, manage, administer, oversee, and fund the Army National Military Cemeteries specified in subsection (b) in a manner and to standards that fully honor the service and sacrifices of the deceased members of the armed forces buried or inurned in the Cemeteries.

(b) ARMY NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERIES.—The Army National Military Cemeteries (in this chapter referred to as the “Cemeteries”) consist of the following:

(1) Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

(2) The United States Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery in the District of Columbia.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—The Cemeteries shall be under the jurisdiction of Headquarters, Department of the Army.

(d) REGULATIONS AND OTHER POLICIES.—The Secretary of the Army shall prescribe such regulations and policies as may be necessary to administer the Cemeteries.

(e) BUDGETARY AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees and the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual budget request (and detailed justifications for the amount of the request) to fund administration, operation and maintenance, and construction related to the Cemeteries. The Secretary may include, as necessary, proposals for new or amended statutory authority related to the Cemeteries.

(Added Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title V, § 591(a)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1439, § 4721; renumbered § 7721, Pub. L. 115–232, div. A, title VIII, § 808(d), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1839.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7721 was renumbered section 8891 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115–232 renumbered section 4721 of this title as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115–232 effective Feb. 1, 2019, with provision for the coordination of amendments and special rule for certain redesignations, see section 800 of Pub. L. 115–232, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective Dec. 31, 2021, of provisions in subsec. (e) of this section relating to submitting annual budget request to Congress, see section 1061 of Pub. L. 114–328, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

DIGITIZATION OF ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY INTERMENT AND INURNMENT RECORDS

Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title V, § 591(b), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1441, provided that:

“(1) DEADLINE FOR CONVERSION AND USE.—Not later than June 1, 2012, all records related to interments and inurnments at Arlington National Cemetery shall be converted to a digitized format. Thereafter, use of the digitized format shall be the method by which all subsequent records related to interments and inurnments at Arlington National Cemetery are preserved and utilized.

“(2) DIGITIZED FORMAT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘digitized format’ refers to the use of an electronic database for recordkeeping and includes the full accounting of all records of each specific gravesite and niche location at Arlington National Cemetery and the identification of the individual interred or inurned at each specific gravesite and niche location.”

§ 7722. Interment and inurnment policy

(a) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS GENERALLY.—(1) The Secretary of the Army, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, shall determine eligibility for interment or inurnment in the Cemeteries.

(2) The Secretary of the Army, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, shall establish policy and procedures for reviewing and determining requests for exceptions to interment and inurnment eligibility policy, which shall include a requirement, before granting the request for an exception, for notification of the Committees on Armed Services and the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) REMOVAL OF REMAINS.—Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Army may prescribe under section 7721(d) of this title, the Secretary of the Army may authorize the removal of the remains of a person described in subsection (c) from one of the Cemeteries for re-interment or re-inurnment if, upon the death of the primary person eligible for interment or inurnment in the Cemeteries, the deceased primary eligible person will not be buried in the same or an adjoining grave.

(c) COVERED PERSONS.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the persons whose remains may be removed pursuant to subsection (b) are the deceased spouse, a minor child, and, in the discretion of the Secretary of the Army, an unmarried adult child of a member eligible for interment or inurnment in the Cemeteries.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—The remains of a person described in subsection (c) may not be removed from one of the Cemeteries under subsection (b) if the primary person eligible for burial in the Cemeteries is a person—

(1) who is missing in action;

(2) whose remains have not been recovered or identified;

(3) whose remains were buried at sea, whether by the choice of the person or otherwise;

(4) whose remains were donated to science; or

(5) whose remains were cremated and whose ashes were scattered without interment of any portion of the ashes.

(Added Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title V, § 591(a)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1439, § 4722; renumbered § 7722 and amended Pub. L. 115–232, div. A, title VIII, §§ 808(d), 809(a), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1839, 1840.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7722 was renumbered section 8892 of this title.