

HCS HB 111 -- UNCLAIMED VETERANS' REMAINS (Day)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Veterans

This substitute allows the unclaimed remains of a veteran to be collected by a veterans' service organization for the purpose of interment in a veterans' cemetery if the remains have been in possession of a funeral establishment for at least one year and the funeral establishment has given written notice to another funeral establishment or a person who contracted for the cremation or interment. If the address of the person entitled to the remains cannot be reasonably ascertained, notice must be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of the veteran's residence. If the veteran's residence is unknown, notice must be given in the county where the veteran died or, if the death location is unknown, in the county in which the funeral establishment is located. If the remains are not claimed within 30 days of the written notice or within four months of the date of the first newspaper publication, the remains may be given to a veterans' service organization for interment.

A veterans' service organization is not liable for simple negligence if it does not scatter the remains but must take all reasonable steps to inter the remains in a veterans' cemetery.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.