

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 149

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENDORSING THE NEED FOR A VETERANS
CEMETERY IN EASTERN IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho is the home to more than 132,000 veterans; and
WHEREAS, more than 30,000 veterans live in the Eastern Idaho catchment
areas; and

WHEREAS, the nearest veterans cemetery to Eastern Idaho is the Idaho
State Veterans Cemetery in Boise, Idaho, that is more than 200 miles driving
distance; and

WHEREAS, although the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise is a beau-
tiful resting place for Idaho veterans, due to its distance from Eastern
Idaho and the population density of the region, the needs of Eastern Idaho
veterans and their families are not met by the Idaho State Cemetery in Boise,
Idaho; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the state is obligated to provide the land
and pay for ongoing cemetery maintenance and operation of a state veterans
cemetery; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the federal government shares this be-
lief, and the Department of Veterans Affairs' State Cemetery Grants Service
pays 100% of architectural and engineering costs, to include planning, con-
struction, and equipment, for the development of a state veterans cemetery;
and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the state is obligated to provide 10% ar-
chitectural and engineering matching funds necessary to qualify for federal
funding; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 38 CFR 39 the 10% architectural and engineering
matching funds will be reimbursed to the state following grant award; and

WHEREAS, Eastern Idaho leaders and the community have identified poten-
tial land donations in an effort to meet the state's obligation to provide
land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
Representatives concurring therein, that we endorse the need for a veterans
cemetery in Eastern Idaho and that legislation should be adopted to facil-
itate the exchange of property and to authorize the Division of Veterans
Services to accept gifts, grants, contributions and bequests, and to pur-
chase and hold title to property on behalf of the State of Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature should act expeditiously so
that no more time passes before Eastern Idaho's veterans are given the re-
spect they are so worthy of receiving.