

Suspend the Rules And Pass the Bill, H.R. 3715, with Amendments

(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3715

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends if requested for religious reasons.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Final Farewell Act
3 of 2016”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF INTERMENTS, FUNERALS, ME-**
5 **MORIAL SERVICES, AND CEREMONIES AT NA-**
6 **TIONAL CEMETERIES AND STATE CEME-**
7 **TERIES RECEIVING GRANTS DURING WEEK-**
8 **ENDS.**

9 (a) NATIONAL CEMETERIES.—Section 2404 of title
10 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
11 the following new subsection:

12 “(i) The Secretary shall permit the interment or fu-
13 neral, memorial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran
14 at a national cemetery during weekends, other than Fed-
15 eral holiday weekends, upon a request of the next-of-kin
16 of the veteran.”.

17 (b) STATE CEMETERIES.—Section 2408(c) of such
18 title is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
20 graph (3); and

21 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
22 lowing new paragraph (2):

23 “(2) In addition to the conditions specified in sub-
24 section (b) and paragraph (1), any grant to a State under
25 this section to assist such State in establishing a veterans’
26 cemetery shall be made on the condition that such ceme-

1 tery shall permit the interment or funeral, memorial serv-
2 ice, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at the cemetery
3 during weekends, other than Federal holiday weekends,
4 upon a request of the next-of-kin of the veteran.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
6 this section shall apply with respect to deaths occurring
7 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 (d) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—Upon receipt of a re-
9 quest for an application for burial or interment in a na-
10 tional cemetery, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
11 provide notice to the individual submitting the request of
12 the opportunity to request the interment or funeral, me-
13 morial service, or ceremony of a deceased veteran at a na-
14 tional cemetery during weekends, other than Federal holi-
15 day weekends, as authorized by subsection (i) of section
16 2404 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
17 section (a).

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit interments, funerals, memorial services, and ceremonies of deceased veterans at national cemeteries and State cemeteries receiving grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs during certain weekends.”.