

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1338
OFFERED BY MR. ABRAHAM OF LOUISIANA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Dignified Interment
3 of Our Veterans Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON**
5 **MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UN-**
6 **CLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NA-**
7 **TIONAL CEMETERIES.**

8 (a) **STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than
9 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

11 (1) complete a study on matters relating to the
12 interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in na-
13 tional cemeteries under the control of the National
14 Cemetery Administration; and

15 (2) submit to Congress a report on the findings
16 of the Secretary with respect to the study required
17 under paragraph (1).

1 (b) MATTERS STUDIED.—The matters studied under
2 subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

3 (1) Determining the scope of issues relating to
4 unclaimed remains of veterans, including an esti-
5 mate of the number of unclaimed remains of vet-
6 erans.

7 (2) Assessing the effectiveness of the proce-
8 dures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for
9 working with persons or entities having custody of
10 unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of un-
11 claimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries
12 under the control of the National Cemetery Adminis-
13 tration.

14 (3) Assessing State and local laws that affect
15 the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed re-
16 mains of veterans in national cemeteries under the
17 control of the National Cemetery Administration.

18 (4) Developing recommendations for such legis-
19 lative or administrative action as the Secretary con-
20 siders appropriate.

21 (c) METHODOLOGY.—

22 (1) NUMBER OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS.—In es-
23 timating the number of unclaimed remains of vet-
24 erans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may re-
25 view such subset of applicable entities as the Sec-

1 retary considers appropriate, including a subset of
2 funeral homes and coroner offices that possess un-
3 claimed veterans remains.

4 (2) ASSESSMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL
5 LAWS.—In assessing State and local laws under sub-
6 section (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample
7 of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary
8 considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applica-
9 ble State and local laws.

10 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO**
11 **SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES OF DEPART-**
12 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

13 Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Ac-
14 countability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C.
15 703 note) is amended by striking the period at the end
16 and inserting the following: “, of which, during fiscal year
17 2016, not more than an aggregate amount of \$2,000,000
18 may be paid to employees of the Department of Veterans
19 Affairs who are members of the Senior Executive Serv-
20 ice.”.

