

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-third General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 21-0480.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**SENATE BILL 21-015**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Cooke and Garcia,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

---

**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING A STIPEND FOR VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**  
102              **THAT PROVIDE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR HONORABLY**  
103              **DISCHARGED VETERANS.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill requires the department of military and veterans affairs to pay, subject to available money, a stipend of up to \$75 to a veterans service organization for each time the organization performs a basic military funeral honors ceremony or other funeral-related services for an honorably discharged veteran.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds and declares that:

4           (a) Rendering of military funeral honors is a way to show the  
5 nation's deep gratitude to those who have faithfully defended our country  
6 in times of war and peace; and

7           (b) The ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration  
8 that a grateful nation can provide to a veteran's family.

9           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 28-5-507** as  
10 follows:

11           **28-5-507. Veterans service organization stipend - funeral**  
12 **services - process - definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION,  
13 UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14           (a) "CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED VETERANS SERVICE  
15 ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN ORGANIZATION THAT AIDS AND SERVES  
16 VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND  
17 SURVIVORS, HAS BEEN GRANTED A CHARTER BY THE UNITED STATES  
18 CONGRESS THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF A PUBLIC LAW, AND IS INCLUDED  
19 IN THE LIST OF PATRIOTIC AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN 36 U.S.C.  
20 SEC. 20101, ET SEQ.

21           (b) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
22 VETERANS AFFAIRS CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION  
23 24-1-127.

24           (c) "LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION" MEANS AN  
25 AUXILIARY, LOCAL UNIT, OR DIVISION OF A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED  
26 VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION, OPERATING IN COLORADO.

1           (2) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE  
2 APPROPRIATIONS, UP TO SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS, REFERRED TO IN THIS  
3 SECTION AS A "STIPEND", TO A LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION  
4 FOR EACH TIME THE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES AN HONOR GUARD DETAIL  
5 TO PERFORM ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES AT THE FUNERAL OF A  
6 DECEASED HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERAN:

7           (I) A BASIC MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS CEREMONY, AS DESCRIBED  
8 IN SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION; OR

9           (II) ANY OTHER FUNERAL-RELATED SERVICES AND PERSONNEL,  
10 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PALLBEARERS, RIFLE TEAMS, AND  
11 CHAPLAIN OR RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

12           (b) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY A SEVENTY-FIVE-DOLLAR  
13 STIPEND TO A LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION FOR SERVICES  
14 PERFORMED AT EACH FUNERAL BUT MAY DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE  
15 STIPEND PAID FOR SERVICES PERFORMED AT A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT  
16 FUNERAL WHEN AN ORGANIZATION PERFORMS SERVICES AT MORE THAN  
17 ONE FUNERAL ON THE SAME DAY. WHEN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF  
18 THE STIPEND FOR SERVICES AT A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT FUNERAL, THE  
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSIDER THE ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE  
20 ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES,  
21 INCLUDING MILEAGE AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND MEALS.

22           (c) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A STIPEND FOR PROVIDING SERVICES AT  
23 A FUNERAL, A LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION MUST REQUEST  
24 THE STIPEND PURSUANT TO THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
25 DEPARTMENT.

26           (3) (a) THE BASIC MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS CEREMONY FOR A  
27 VETERAN CONSISTS OF FOLDING AND PRESENTING THE UNITED STATES

1 FLAG TO THE VETERAN'S FAMILY, IF FAMILY MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE,  
2 AND PLAYING TAPS. TAPS MUST BE PLAYED BY A BUGLER OR, IF A BUGLER  
3 IS NOT AVAILABLE, BY USING A HIGH-QUALITY RECORDED VERSION.

4 (b) IF THE LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION PROVIDES A  
5 STUDENT TO PLAY TAPS, THE ORGANIZATION MAY PAY SOME OR ALL OF  
6 THE SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS TO THE STUDENT.

7 (4) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
8 CREATE A PROCESS FOR A LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION TO  
9 APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A STIPEND. IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER  
10 REQUIREMENTS, THE PROCESS MUST REQUIRE THE ORGANIZATION TO:

11 (a) REQUEST THE STIPEND WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER PROVIDING  
12 THE FUNERAL SERVICES;

13 (b) PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE DECEASED VETERAN FOR WHICH  
14 THE SERVICES WERE PERFORMED;

15 (c) DESCRIBE THE SERVICES PERFORMED; AND

16 (d) IF THE ORGANIZATION IS SEEKING A STIPEND FOR SERVICES  
17 PERFORMED AT A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT FUNERAL ON THE SAME DAY AS  
18 ANOTHER FUNERAL, SUBMIT THE AMOUNT OF ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED  
19 BY THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS MEMBERS FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES,  
20 INCLUDING MILEAGE AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS AND MEALS.

21 (5) (a) FOR THE 2021-22 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE  
23 DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

24 (b) THIS SUBSECTION (5) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

25 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
26 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
27 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except

1 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V  
2 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this  
3 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take  
4 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
5 November 2022 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
6 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.