

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5481**

Chapter 56, Laws of 2009

61st Legislature  
2009 Regular Session

BURIAL OF VETERANS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/26/09

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2009  
YEAS 48 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 1, 2009  
YEAS 97 NAYS 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved April 10, 2009, 2:54 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5481** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

April 13, 2009

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5481**

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Passed Legislature - 2009 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Marr, Becker, Hobbs, Haugen, Franklin, Parlette, Eide, Rockefeller, Hatfield, Jarrett, Jacobsen, Kilmer, Berkey, Tom, Swecker, King, Kastama, Shin, McDermott, Prentice, Fairley, Holmquist, Brandland, McCaslin, Ranker, McAuliffe, Roach, Honeyford, and Kauffman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/09.

1           AN ACT Relating to veterans' burials; and amending RCW 68.50.230.

2           BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3           **Sec. 1.** RCW 68.50.230 and 2005 c 365 s 146 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5           (1) Whenever any human remains shall have been in the lawful  
6 possession of any person, firm, corporation, or association for a  
7 period of ninety days or more, and the relatives of, or persons  
8 interested in, the deceased person shall fail, neglect, or refuse to  
9 direct the disposition, the human remains may be disposed of by the  
10 person, firm, corporation, or association having such lawful possession  
11 thereof, under and in accordance with rules adopted by the cemetery  
12 board and the board of funeral directors and embalmers, not  
13 inconsistent with any statute of the state of Washington or rule  
14 adopted by the state board of health.

15           (2)(a) The department of veterans affairs may certify that the  
16 deceased person to whom subsection (1) of this section applies was a  
17 veteran or the dependent of a veteran eligible for interment at a  
18 federal or state veterans' cemetery.

1       (b) Upon certification of eligible veteran or dependent of a  
2 veteran status under (a) of this subsection, the person, firm,  
3 corporation, or association in possession of the veteran's or veteran's  
4 dependent's remains shall transfer the custody and control of the  
5 remains to the department of veterans affairs.

6       (c) The transfer of human remains under (b) of this subsection does  
7 not create:

8       (i) A private right of action against the state or its officers and  
9 employees or instrumentalities, or against any person, firm,  
10 corporation, or association transferring the remains; or

11       (ii) Liability on behalf of the state, the state's officers,  
12 employees, or instrumentalities; or on behalf of the person, firm,  
13 corporation, or association transferring the remains.

Passed by the Senate March 3, 2009.

Passed by the House April 1, 2009.

Approved by the Governor April 10, 2009.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 13, 2009.