

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

HOUSE BILL 2637

64th Legislature
2016 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 8, 2016
Yeas 96 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 4, 2016
Yeas 41 Nays 7

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2637** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

HOUSE BILL 2637

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2016 Regular Session

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Manweller, DeBolt, G. Hunt, and Zeiger

Read first time 01/18/16. Referred to Committee on Capital Budget.

1 AN ACT Relating to preservation and improvement of historic
2 cemeteries; and adding a new section to chapter 27.34 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 27.34
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The Washington state historic cemetery preservation capital
7 grant program is created in the department.

8 (2) The capital grant program is intended to benefit the public
9 by preserving outstanding examples of the state's historical
10 heritage, enabling historic cemeteries to continue to serve their
11 communities, and honoring the military veterans buried within them.

12 (3) Subject to appropriation, grants may be awarded each biennium
13 for construction, renovation, or rehabilitation projects that
14 preserve the historic character, features, and materials of the
15 cemetery, or that maintain or improve the functions of the cemetery.

16 (4) A capital grant award may not exceed fifty thousand dollars,
17 adjusted biennially for inflation. The department may not require
18 applicants to provide matching funds.

19 (5) Eligible applicants for capital grants include cemetery
20 property owners, nonprofit organizations, and local governments.

1 (6) Applications for the capital grant program must be submitted
2 to the department in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
3 The applications must include a history of the cemetery which the
4 department shall maintain on file.

5 (7) The director shall establish a committee to review
6 applications. The committee shall consist of at least five members
7 with expertise or association with historic preservation, cemetery
8 associations, local cemetery boards, and other associations or
9 professional organizations the director deems appropriate. When
10 evaluating and prioritizing projects, the committee shall consider
11 the following criteria:

12 (a) The relative historical significance of the cemetery;

13 (b) Whether the proposed project will result in lower costs of
14 maintenance and operations; and

15 (c) The relative percentage of military burials in the cemetery.

16 (8) The conditions in this subsection must be met by recipients
17 of funding in order to satisfy the public benefit requirements of the
18 historic cemetery preservation capital grant program.

19 (a) The committee shall provide the department a prioritized list
20 of projects for funding. The department and grant recipient must
21 execute a contract before work on the grant project begins. The
22 contract must specify public benefit and minimum maintenance
23 requirements.

24 (b) Grant recipients must proactively maintain their historic
25 cemetery for a minimum of ten years.

26 (c) Public access to the exterior of properties that are not
27 visible from a public right-of-way must be provided under reasonable
28 terms and circumstances, including the requirement that visits by
29 nonprofit organizations or school groups must be offered at least one
30 day per year. Tribal access must be provided under reasonable terms
31 and circumstances to historic cemeteries in which there are Indian
32 burials.

33 (9) Projects must be initiated within one year of funding
34 approval and completed within two years, unless an extension is
35 provided in writing by the department.

36 (10) If a recipient of an historic cemetery preservation capital
37 grant, or subsequent owner of a property that was assisted by a
38 grant, takes any action within ten years of the award with respect to
39 the assisted property such as dismantlement, removal, substantial
40 alteration, or any other action inconsistent with the property's

1 status as a cemetery, the grant must be repaid in full within one
2 year.

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