

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4198

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure direct access for families to national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2024

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure direct access for families to national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Cemetery Ac-
5 cess Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FAMILY ACCESS TO NATIONAL CEMETERIES.**

7 Section 2404 of title 38, United States Code, is
8 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 section:

1 “(j)(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the family of
 2 a person buried in a national cemetery has direct access
 3 to that cemetery.

4 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘direct access’
 5 means access that—

6 “(A) is provided to the family on the same day
 7 the access is requested by the family; and

8 “(B) does not require the family to travel
 9 through an area under the control of the Depart-
 10 ment of Defense.”.

11 **SEC. 3. PRIORITIZATION OF GRANTS FOR STATES WITHOUT**
 12 **VETERANS’ CEMETERIES.**

13 Section 2408(a) of title 38, United States Code, is
 14 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 15 graph:

16 “(3) In making grants under this section, the Sec-
 17 retary shall prioritize grants for establishing veterans’
 18 cemeteries in States that do not have such a cemetery.”.

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