

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1413

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand or otherwise modify an existing national cemetery to ensure that full military honors are provided at such cemetery, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly submit to Congress a report containing a proposal to increase national cemetery capacity and an assessment of the criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2023

Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. WITTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand or otherwise modify an existing national cemetery to ensure that full military honors are provided at such cemetery, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly submit to Congress a report containing a proposal to increase national cemetery capacity and an assessment of the criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery, 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 “Expanding America’s  
5 National Cemetery Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF EXISTING NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
7                   **TO CONTINUE PROVISION OF FULL MILITARY**  
8                   **HONORS.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Before Arlington National Ceme-  
10 tery reaches capacity, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
11 shall expand or otherwise modify a national cemetery de-  
12 scribed in subsection (b) to ensure that full military hon-  
13 ors are provided at such cemetery—

14               (1) in a manner that is consistent with the full  
15 military honors provided for interment in Arlington  
16 National Cemetery as of March 31, 2023; and

17               (2) using the eligibility criteria in effect as of  
18 March 31, 2023, for providing full military honors  
19 for interment in Arlington National Cemetery.

20       (b) NATIONAL CEMETERY DESCRIBED.—A national  
21 cemetery described in this subsection is a national ceme-  
22 tery that is—

23               (1) in use as of the date of the enactment of  
24 this Act; and

1           (2) under the control of the National Cemetery  
2       Administration.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON CRITERIA FOR INTERMENT IN ARLING-**  
4 **TON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND PROPOSAL**  
5 **TO INCREASE NATIONAL CEMETERY CAPAC-**  
6 **ITY.**

7       Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
8       ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-  
9       retary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to Congress  
10      a report that contains each of the following:

11           (1) A proposal to increase national cemetery ca-  
12      pacity through the expansion or modification of a  
13      national cemetery described in section 2(b) that has,  
14      or will have, the capacity to provide full military  
15      honors.

16           (2) The assessment of the Secretary of Defense,  
17      in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, with  
18      respect to any revisions that should be made to the  
19      revised criteria for interment in Arlington National  
20      Cemetery prescribed pursuant to section 598 of the  
21      John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act  
22      for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 38  
23      U.S.C. 2402 note) in order to ensure that such cri-  
24      teria recognize exceptional service and honors.

1           (3) An assessment of how the revised criteria  
2 described in paragraph (2) will affect—

3           (A) women;

4           (B) veterans who served in non-combat oc-  
5 cupations as members of the Armed Forces;

6           (C) veterans who did not serve in combat  
7 as members of the Armed Forces; and

8           (D) such other groups as the Secretaries  
9 consider relevant.

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