



## 2023 South Dakota Legislature

# House Bill 1054

Introduced by: **Representative Reisch**

1 **An Act to provide a stipend for the erection of a private headstone for a deceased**  
 2 **veteran.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 33A-5-4 be AMENDED:**

5 **33A-5-4.** If a headstone is provided by the United States government for the  
 6 purpose of marking the grave of a veteran who had been a resident of South Dakota for  
 7 one year preceding entrance into military service or preceding death or if a memorial  
 8 headstone or marker is provided by the United States government to commemorate any  
 9 member of the armed forces of the United States dying in the service, whose remains  
 10 have not been recovered or identified or were buried at sea, the veterans' service officer  
 11 or field officer shall cause the headstone or memorial headstone or marker to be erected.  
 12 The expense of erecting the headstone or memorial headstone or marker ~~shall~~must be  
 13 paid by the state and may not exceed one hundred dollars. No payment for the expense  
 14 is allowed unless a claim is filed ~~or presented to~~with the Department of Veterans Affairs  
 15 within one year ~~subsequent to~~of the date the headstone or memorial headstone or marker  
 16 is erected.

17 An individual responsible for the execution of the estate of a deceased veteran  
 18 authorized to receive a headstone or memorial headstone or marker may elect to purchase  
 19 a headstone at personal expense but may receive the one-hundred-dollar state stipend  
 20 for erecting the headstone or memorial headstone or marker if the name, rank, branch of  
 21 service, and dates of birth and death of the veteran are professionally etched on the  
 22 backside of the headstone.

23 **Section 2. That § 33A-5-5 be AMENDED:**

24 **33A-5-5.** All public expenses incurred under the provisions of §§ 33A-5-2 to 33A-  
 25 5-4, inclusive, shall be approved, allowed, and certified by the county or tribal veterans'

1 service officer or field officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs upon forms provided  
2 by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The county or tribal veteran's service officer or  
3 field officer shall forward the forms to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The department  
4 shall certify and forward the forms to the state auditor.

5 Upon receipt of the certified forms, the state auditor shall draw a warrant on the  
6 state treasurer in favor of the person or persons entitled to the payment for the amount  
7 specified on the forms.