
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1473 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, COX, DRISCOLL, JAMES, MENTZER, MURT,
SACCONE, SOLOMON, QUIGLEY AND GILLEN, MAY 31, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 31, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 11, 1935 (P.L.326, No.149), entitled
2 "An act relating to counties of the first class; defining
3 deceased service persons; providing for contributions by the
4 county to the funeral expenses for such persons and their
5 widows; providing for the erection and care of markers,
6 headstones, and flags, and for the compilation of war
7 records," further providing for flags to decorate graves.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 7 of the act of June 11, 1935 (P.L.326,
11 No.149), entitled "An act relating to counties of the first
12 class; defining deceased service persons; providing for
13 contributions by the county to the funeral expenses for such
14 persons and their widows; providing for the erection and care of
15 markers, headstones, and flags, and for the compilation of war
16 records," is amended to read:

17 Section 7. Flags to Decorate Graves.--It shall be the duty
18 of the county commissioners to provide flags on each Memorial
19 Day with which to decorate the graves of all deceased service
20 persons and the graves of all other deceased persons who served

1 in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard,
2 Merchant Marine during World War II or any organization
3 officially connected therewith and whose separation from such
4 service was honorable, whether by discharge or otherwise, buried
5 within the county. The flags to be used for said purposes shall
6 be of one standard size and shall be purchased at the expense of
7 the county from moneys in the county treasury.

8 Such flags shall be furnished to the various veterans'
9 organizations in such numbers as they shall require for their
10 respective communities.

11 The moneys expended by any such county, under the provisions
12 of this section, shall be in addition to moneys appropriated by
13 counties for Memorial Day purposes.

14 The authorities in charge of any cemetery are authorized to
15 remove such flags, when the same become unsightly or weather-
16 worn, at any time not less than [ninety] thirty days after the
17 flags have been placed on graves[.] along with notification to
18 the respective county director of veterans' affairs for a
19 replacement flag.

20 A family member of a person whose grave is decorated with a
21 flag for the purpose of Memorial Day by the county is granted
22 permission to take and keep the flag after the first working day
23 after the Fourth of July. A cemetery shall contact the county no
24 less than thirty days after taking down the flags annually for
25 collection by the county.

26 In addition to the powers and duties granted to local code
27 enforcement officers, a local code enforcement officer may
28 inspect local cemeteries for violations of this section and
29 report any violation to a county director of veterans' affairs.

30 Counties may coordinate with local veterans service

1 organizations to ensure that cemeteries are in compliance with
2 the provisions of this section.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.