

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2007

453N0699

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1192

Introduced by: Representatives Vehle, Carson, Cutler, Dennert, Elliott, Faehn, Gassman, Gilson, Halverson, Hargens, Hunt, Koistinen, Miles, Moore, Nelson, Noem, Olson (Russell), Pederson (Gordon), Pitts, Sigdestad, Street, and Weems and Senators Olson (Ed), Abdallah, Dempster, Garnos, Hansen (Tom), Heidepriem, and Peterson (Jim)

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to provide for a study of the potential establishment of a  
2 state veterans cemetery and to make an appropriation therefor.

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

4 Section 1. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study of the  
5 need for and feasibility of establishing a state veterans cemetery in the eastern half of South  
6 Dakota. In conducting the study, the department may use its own staff and resources and may  
7 contract with one or more consultants or other entities.

8 Section 2. In determining the need for a state veterans cemetery, the study shall address the  
9 following:

10 (1) The number of veterans in the eastern half of the state delineated by region and  
11 population center;

12 (2) An estimate of the number and percentage of veterans who would choose burial in  
13 a state veterans cemetery if the cemetery were located within seventy-five miles of  
14 their homes and one hundred fifty miles of their homes, or similar estimates based



1 on distance from home;

2 (3) An estimate of the number and percentage of veterans who would choose burial at  
3 the Black Hills National Cemetery or a national veterans cemetery in another state  
4 regardless of whether or not a state veterans cemetery in eastern South Dakota were  
5 available;

6 (4) A delineation of trends in the veteran population in South Dakota by age group;

7 (5) A description of burial locations currently and historically used by South Dakota  
8 veterans and veterans in other states in relation to distance from civilian cemeteries  
9 and state and national veterans cemeteries;

10 (6) Any other information that may assist in predicting the potential usage by South  
11 Dakota veterans of a state veterans cemetery.

12 Section 3. The study shall identify the three potentially most suitable sites or areas for a state  
13 veterans cemetery, based on population, accessibility, and site characteristics, as well as other  
14 factors identified in the course of the study.

15 Section 4. The study shall include an estimate of the costs to establish and maintain a state  
16 veterans cemetery, including federal funding potentially available through the state cemetery  
17 grant program, federal funding as a percentage of total costs to establish a cemetery, the cost to  
18 maintain a state veterans cemetery, historical and projected inflation rates in maintenance costs,  
19 costs of potential expansions, and other factors affecting the short- and long-range costs of  
20 establishing and maintaining a state veterans cemetery.

21 Section 5. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of forty thousand  
22 dollars (\$40,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the Department of Military and  
23 Veterans Affairs to implement the study required pursuant to this Act.

24 Section 6. The Adjutant General shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall draw

1 warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

2 Section 7. Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated by

3 June 30, 2008, shall revert in accordance with § 4-8-21.