

## S 4949

### National Cemeteries Preservation and Protection Act of 2022

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Sep 27, 2022

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 117-355.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 117-355. (Jan 5, 2023)

**Law:** 117-355 (Enacted Jan 5, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4949>

#### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

#### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Sep 27, 2022

#### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 20, 2022

#### Subjects & Policy Tags

##### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

#### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## National Cemeteries Preservation and Protection Act of 2022

This act addresses the administration and jurisdiction of national cemeteries.

Specifically, the act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to pay a plot or interment allowance for a veteran if the veteran was buried before March 15, 2022, in a cemetery on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization, and the organization that maintains or operates the cemetery applies for such allowance. Such allowance is only authorized if a plot or interment allowance was not already paid for the burial of such veteran.

The act also authorizes the VA to designate green burial sections in national cemeteries (i.e., sections of cemeteries in which the remains of individuals have been prepared for interment in a manner not involving chemicals or embalming fluids and have been interred in a natural manner or completely biodegradable burial receptacle).

The act authorizes the Department of the Army to transfer certain lands to the VA to expand the Fort Bliss National Cemetery.

In addition, the act authorizes the Department of the Interior to transfer certain land to the VA for the land to be used as a national cemetery.

Finally, the act prohibits persons who have committed certain crimes from being interred or memorialized in a cemetery in the National Cemetery Administration or in Arlington National Cemetery.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Jan 5, 2023:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 5, 2023:** Became Public Law No: 117-355.
- **Dec 28, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Mr. Takano moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10038-10040)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 4949.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H10038-10039)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H10038-10039)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 20, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S7303-7304; text: CR S7303-7304)
- **Dec 19, 2022:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7303-7304; text: CR S7303-7304)
- **Sep 27, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 27, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.