

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2996, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. BUYER OF INDIANA**

Page 55, after line 24, insert the following:

1 SEC. 116. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior,
3 in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
4 shall enter into a contract with one or more qualified orga-
5 nizations to conduct an independent study of the national
6 cemeteries administered by the Secretary. For purposes
7 of this section, an entity of Federal, State, or local govern-
8 ment is not a qualified organization.

9 (b) The study conducted pursuant to the contract en-
10 tered into under subsection (a) shall include an assess-
11 ment of each of the following:

12 (1) The one-time repairs required at each na-
13 tional cemetery, taking into account the variety of
14 age, climate, and burial options at individual ceme-
15 teries and ensuring the respectful setting appro-
16 priate to each such cemetery

17 (2) The feasibility of making the standards of
18 appearance of such cemeteries, including such ceme-
19 teries that are closed to new burials, commensurate

1 with the standards of appearance of the finest ceme-
2 teries in the world.

3 (e) Not later than 180 days after the date on which
4 a qualified organization enters into a contract under sub-
5 section (a), the organization shall submit to the Secretary
6 of the Interior and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a
7 report setting forth the results of the study conducted and
8 conclusions of the organization with respect to such re-
9 sults.

10 (d) Not later than 120 days after the date on which
11 a report is submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary
12 of the Interior shall transmit to the Committee on Vet-
13 erans' Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural
14 Resources Committee of the Senate and the Committee
15 on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Re-
16 sources of the House of Representatives a copy of the re-
17 port, together with any comments on the report that the
18 Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary shall in-
19 clude with the report a five-year plan describing how the
20 Secretary intends to fulfill the recommendations contained
21 in the report submitted under subsection (c) and the
22 amount of funds required to fulfill such recommendations.

- 1 (e) There are authorized to be appropriated to the
- 2 Secretary of the Interior such sums as may be necessary
- 3 to carry out the study under subsection (a).

