

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB859

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron Barry

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Display of POW/MIA flag.

5. Summary/Purpose:

As a demonstration of this state's concern for Americans who have been prisoners of war, or were missing in action, or are presently unaccounted for, this legislation requires the Governor to issue a proclamation requiring state officials to display the POW/MIA flag on all state-owned or operated public buildings during certain holidays. These holidays include Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day.

6. Fiscal Impact is INDETERMINATE.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: Although the fiscal impact of this legislation is indeterminate, it is expected that its adoption could create some level of additional cost for the state agencies and institutions assigned to the executive branch of government. Assuming that buildings unequipped with flagpoles would not need to purchase flagpoles, this cost would equal the price of purchasing a POW/MIA flag. According to the staff of the Virginia War Memorial, which currently displays the POW/MIA flag, the cost of purchasing a five-foot by eight-foot, double-sided POW/MIA flag is \$100. (Other size flags could be purchased, but a five-foot by eight-foot flag is the proper dimension for display on flagpoles similar to that atop the State Capitol. In addition, discounts are provided by the manufacturer on orders equal to 50 or more flags.)

Currently, 8,556 buildings are located on land owned by the Commonwealth. Many of these buildings, however, are small structures unequipped with flagpoles or buildings that serve larger facilities (such as college campuses) that possess a central location for flagpoles. Therefore, it should not be assumed that the Commonwealth's entire inventory of buildings would be equipped with flagpoles. Nevertheless, if it were assumed that one-third of these buildings are equipped with flagpoles, then the total statewide cost of this legislation would equal nearly \$282,300. This total cost reflects the statewide application of this proposal and does not differentiate between costs borne by the general fund or nongeneral fund sources. Given the small cost of purchasing a POW/MIA flag, it is expected that state agencies could find the resources within their budgets to accomplish this act's purpose.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: This legislation would affect all state agencies within the executive branch.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

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cc: Secretary of Administration

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