

Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2798

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Rust

3. Committee Pending

4. Title Veterans of the War of 1812; care of graves.

5. Summary/Purpose:

This bill sets forth the procedure for the disbursement and use of any funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Virginia to care for cemeteries, graves, monuments, and markers for veterans of the War of 1812. This bill also allows the Society of the War of 1812 to apply to the Director of the Department of Historic Resources for grants to perform extraordinary maintenance, renovation, repair, or reconstruction of any of the cemeteries and graves.

6. Fiscal Impact:

Any fiscal impact associated with this legislation would depend on the amount of funding provided for in the general appropriation act for care of cemeteries, graves, monuments, and markers for veterans of the War of 1812. Currently, no appropriation is provided for in the general appropriation act for this purpose. If the program is established the General Assembly would need to appropriate the required funding. Existing programs for maintenance of Confederate graves and Revolutionary War graves allocate maintenance costs of five dollars per grave. The Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia is currently conducting a study to identify all the burial places of 1812 veterans in Virginia. According to the society's website, 1000 graves had been identified as of January 2004 and "it is expected that this list will expand considerably when this project is completed." Although it is not possible to predict the results of this study, the current findings would require a \$5000 annual appropriation that would likely need to be increased in the future to account for additional grave findings.

Additionally, this bill establishes a grant program for extraordinary maintenance, renovation, repair, or reconstruction of any of the cemeteries and graves of veterans of the War of 1812. Again, there is no funding currently included in the general appropriation act for this purpose and any funding would need to be provided by the General Assembly. According to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR), only one grant for extraordinary maintenance has been awarded in recent years. The project involved straightening nearly 10,000 gravestones, removing overgrown bushes, and repairing a gazebo within the Confederate section of the Oakwood Cemetery Trust in Richmond. The grant was awarded in the amount of \$30,000.

However, depending on the scope of the work required, funding needs could range anywhere from a few thousand dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Finally, while there would be additional costs to DHR associated with the administration of the new maintenance and grant programs, it is anticipated that these costs can be absorbed within the agency's current appropriation provided the demand for grants is nominal

7. Budget amendment necessary: See Item 6.

8. Fiscal implications: See Item 6.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Historic Resources

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/19/05 / dma

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cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade