

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1272 ER

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron Janis

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Virginia War Orphan Education Program; definition of disability.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Amends the Virginia War Orphan Education Program to (i) rename the program as the "Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program"; and (ii) expand eligibility to the spouse or child between the ages of 16 and 29 of a military service member who, during military operations against terrorism, a peace-keeping mission, a terrorist act, or any armed conflict, is killed, missing in action, a prisoner of war, or at least 90 percent disabled as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Eligibility for benefits under the Program must be established through documentation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services is directed to designate a senior-level official to be responsible for developing and implementing the agency's strategy for disseminating information about the Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to disabled veterans whose dependents qualify and to survivors of veterans who may qualify. The Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Services must report annually to the Governor and General Assembly as to the agency's policies and strategies relating to dissemination of information about the Program and the number of current beneficiaries, the educational institutions attended by beneficiaries, and the completion rate of the beneficiaries.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: This legislation raises the age limit for eligibility to participate in the program from 25 to 29. This change could lead to an increase in program enrollment, thereby increasing the cost. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate the level of enrollment growth that could result from passage of this legislation; however, any such increase would require additional funding to maintain program benefits.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Veterans Services, military families.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 3/29/06 / SHD

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