

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB359

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

2. Patron **Edwards**

3. Committee Committee on General Laws

4. Title Department of Veterans Services.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Authorizes the Department of Veterans Services to accept donated property in the southwestern region of Virginia for the purpose of constructing the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. The bill also provides for (i) the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget shall establish a capital project for the purpose of cemetery construction, and (ii) the Treasurer provide the Department of Veterans Services in the form of a short-term, interest free treasury loan for the purpose of matching such federal funds if such funds become available.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	0	0	
2007-08	\$6,938,424	0	Nongeneral
2008-09	0	0	
2009-10	\$257,500	5	General
	\$22,500	0	Nongeneral
2010-11	\$250,000	5	General
	\$30,000	0	Nongeneral
2011-12	\$242,500	5	General
	\$37,500	0	Nongeneral

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: The enclosed bill allows the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to accept donated land in the southwestern portion of the Commonwealth for the purposes of constructing the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. A cemetery in Southwest Virginia is needed to serve the veterans population in that part of the Commonwealth. Approximately 65,000 veterans live within a 75-mile radius of a potential cemetery site in the Dublin area. The closest veteran's cemeteries to the Dublin area that are able to accept new interments of casketed and cremated burials are the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Mountain Home, Tennessee.

Construction of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will be with 100 percent federal funds through a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Project costs of \$6.9 million are based on project costs for the recently completed Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, and were reviewed by the Department of General Services. The USDVA project grant operates on a reimbursement basis. The treasury loan will allow construction to proceed prior to reimbursement from the USDVA. DVS estimates that the construction project will be completed in June 2008 at the earliest.

Operations will begin in FY 2009. Based on operational experience at the state veteran's cemeteries in Amelia and Suffolk, DVS estimates that there will be 75 burials in the first year; growing by 25 burials a year until an annual rate of 200 burials, a year is reached.

Operating funds will come from General Fund and Non-General Fund sources. The majority of operating costs will be borne by the General Fund, supplemented by a \$300 per burial reimbursement from the USDVA. The operational costs include personnel costs associated with a staff of five – a superintendent, an administrative assistant, and three grounds workers. Expected operational costs and staffing levels are based on the DVS Strategic Plan and from operating experiences at the Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: none

Date: February 23, 2006 CAB

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety