

## Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill number:** HB229

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

**2. Patron:** Cosgrove

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** **Veterans services; changes references under powers and duties to Secretary of Public Safety.**

**5. Summary:** This bill changes the references under the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Veterans Services from the Secretary of Administration to the Secretary of Public Safety. In addition, the bill directs the Department of Veterans Services to establish eligibility guidelines for participation in programs and benefits. The bill also clarifies that the purpose of the Veterans Services Foundation is to provide funding for veteran services and programs in the Commonwealth.

**6. Fiscal impact estimates: Preliminary.** See Item #8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The Veterans Services Foundation serves as an advisory foundation, raising funds, identifying existing revenue sources for veterans programs, and administering the Veterans Services Fund. The Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Organizations represents 23 veteran service organizations, such as the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The bill adds a board member to the Veterans Services Foundation (the Chair of the Joint Leadership Council) and an additional representative to the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the Chair of the Veterans Services Foundation). The Foundation meets, on average, four times per year. With the addition of one board member, compensation and travel expense reimbursement for the Foundation will increase \$604. Adding the Chair of the Foundation to the Joint Leadership Council, which meets five times yearly on average, will increase reimbursements \$755. The total fiscal impact on the Department of Veterans Services will be \$1,359 annually, which the agency can absorb.

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

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/6/2008/jlv

**Document:** G:\08-10\FIS\HB229H1.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Public Safety