

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB760

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

2. Patron: Wagner

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: **Veterans services in the Commonwealth.**

5. Summary: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Services to establish guidelines for the determination of eligibility for Virginia-domiciled veterans and their spouses, orphans, and dependents for participation in programs and benefits administered by the Department. The bill also establishes the Veterans Services Foundation as a body politic and corporate for the purposes of carrying out its statutory powers and duties. In addition the bill (i) adds the Chair of the Joint Leadership Council to the board of trustees and (ii) clarifies the purpose of the foundation to raise funds from the private sector for veterans services and programs in the state. In addition the bill changes references under the powers and duties of the Commissioner of Veterans Services from the Secretary of Administration to the Secretary of Public Safety.

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: This bill is similar to HB 299 and HB 1104.

Date: 1/24/2008/jlv

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety