

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1241

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

2. Patron: Reeves

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Board of Veterans Services; membership and scope of responsibilities.

5. Summary: Currently, there are 22 members of the Board of Veterans Services, of which five are legislators, 14 are nonlegislative citizens, and three are ex officio members. Three of these are members of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House, two are members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and 14 are nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Governor. The ex officio members are the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Services Foundation, and the Chairman of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations.

The proposed legislation would increase the Board's membership from 22 to 26 members. This would include seven legislative members, fifteen nonlegislative citizens, and four ex officio members. This would include four members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker; three members of the Senate appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and 15 nonlegislative citizen members. The bill would add one ex officio member, the Chairman of the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. The bill clarifies the responsibilities of the Board to include policy recommendations related to the mission of the Virginia War Memorial. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), the bill would have a minimal impact on the agency's operations. Currently, DVS reimburses board members for their travel when attending board meetings, which are held four times per year. The amount reimbursed varies based on the distance travelled to the meeting, with residents of the Richmond area incurring fewer travel expenses than members who live further away. The total fiscal impact anticipated as a result of this legislation is \$1,600. It is expected that this amount can be absorbed by the agency.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Veterans Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to HB2632.