

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1246E

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

2. Patron: Reeves

3. Committee: House Committee on Appropriations

4. Title: Payment for Virginia National Guard Members on State Active Duty.

5. Summary: This bill requires that all members of the Virginia National Guard who are called into state active duty be paid an amount not less than that prescribed for a member with the rank of E-6 who has over 18 years of service. This bill also states that the provision shall not become effective unless an explicit authorization to allocate a sum sufficient is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2019 by the General Assembly that becomes law.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate (see Item 8 below).

8. Fiscal Implications: Existing law requires that members of the Virginia National Guard, when called into state active service, receive the same pay and allowances as prescribed for members of like rank in the United States Armed Forces. This bill provides that at a minimum, members mobilized for active state duty will be compensated at a rate consistent with an E-6 rank who has over 18 years of service. The enactment in the senate amendment provides that the bill shall not become effective unless an explicit authorization to allocate a sum sufficient is included in a general appropriation act pass in 2019 by the General Assembly that becomes law. Currently, when a state of emergency is declared, the Governor authorizes a sum sufficient for reimbursement to state agencies for payment of eligible costs. While the proposed legislation would increase the cost of the state response to emergencies in which the National Guard is mobilized, such as hurricanes, fires, and floods, by establishing a minimum “floor” for the daily pay for enlisted members, the cost will depend on various factors. The additional cost would be dependent on the number of Guardsmen mobilized for an event, the length of the event/emergency, their respective rank, and the number of emergency responses that occur in a given year. The Department of Military Affairs estimates that 5-6 emergency responses per year would result in approximately \$50,000 in additional costs. Accordingly, the exact amount cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Military Affairs and Department of Emergency Management.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: None