

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1044

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Guzman

3. Committee: Transportation & Public Safety

4. Title: Burial fees for military spouses.

5. Summary: Provides that from such funds as may be appropriated, the Commonwealth shall pay any burial fee charged for the burial of a spouse of an active duty member or veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, or the surviving spouse of such member or veteran at a veterans cemetery operated by the Department of Veterans Services (DVS). The bill requires DVS to develop guidelines concerning the administration of this provision.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 471.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), it currently costs the agency \$400 per spousal burial at the state veterans cemeteries. The agency conducted 607 spousal burials in fiscal year 2021. Currently, these costs are paid by families. Assuming the same number of burials are conducted annually, the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation is estimated to be \$242,800 annually. However, based on data from previous years, the number of burials could increase in the future, requiring additional resources. Assuming an annual increase in burials of five percent, the estimated funding needs for the agency would be \$267,687 in FY 2023 and \$281,071 in FY 2024.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.