

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB 359

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

2. Patron **Edwards**

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Department of Veterans Services.

5. Summary/Purpose:

This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Services to accept donated property in the southwestern region of Virginia for the purpose of constructing the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. The bill also requires (i) the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget to establish a capital project for the purpose of cemetery construction, and (ii) the Treasurer to provide the Department of Veterans Services a short-term, interest free treasury loan for the purpose of matching such federal funds if such funds become available.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	0	0	
2007-08	\$6,938,424	0	Nongeneral
2008-09	0	0	
2009-10	\$257,500	5	General
	\$22,500	0	Nongeneral
2010-11	\$250,000	5	General
	\$30,000	0	Nongeneral
2011-12	\$242,500	5	General
	\$37,500	0	Nongeneral

7. Budget amendment necessary: No. The capital project has already been established and planning monies have been previously provided. The \$6.9 million can be appropriated administratively, with application for the treasury loan occurring after the federal government has approved the project.

8. Fiscal implications: This bill allows the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to accept donated land in the southwestern portion of the Commonwealth for the purposes of constructing the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. A cemetery in Southwest Virginia is needed to serve the veterans population in that part of the Commonwealth. Approximately 65,000 veterans live within a 75-mile radius of a potential cemetery site in the Dublin area. The closest veteran's cemeteries to the Dublin area that are able to accept new interments of

casketed and cremated burials are the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Mountain Home National Cemetery in Mountain Home, Tennessee.

Construction of the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery will be with 100 percent federal funds through a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Project costs of \$6.9 million are based on project costs for the recently completed Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, and were reviewed by the Department of General Services. The USDVA project grant operates on a reimbursement basis. The treasury loan will allow construction to proceed prior to reimbursement from the USDVA. DVS estimates that the construction project will be completed in June 2008 at the earliest.

Operations will begin in FY 2010. Based on operational experience at the state veteran's cemeteries in Amelia and Suffolk, DVS estimates that there will be 75 burials in the first year, growing by 25 burials a year until an annual rate of 200 burials a year is reached.

Operating funds will come from General Fund and Nongeneral Fund sources, as shown in Item 6. The majority of operating costs will be borne by the General Fund, supplemented by a \$300 per burial reimbursement from the USDVA. The operational costs include personnel costs associated with a staff of five – a superintendent, an administrative assistant, and three grounds workers. Expected operational costs and staffing levels are based on the DVS Strategic Plan and from operating experiences at the Amelia and Suffolk cemeteries.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: Cross reference HB1465, exact bill

Date: March 23, 2006 CAB

Document: G:\Fis 2006\Veterans\sb359.Doc Carol Bell

cc: Secretary of Public Safety