

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1875

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

2. Patron: Cosgrove

3. Committee: General Laws

4. Title: **Term “killed in action” to include any deployed active duty military personnel.**

5. Summary: This bill provides that the term “Killed in Action” shall include any deployed active duty military personnel of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Guard, or any other reserve component thereof, killed while on assignment in a combat zone. As a result, the names and homes of record of these persons will be placed in the Virginia War Memorial. The term shall not include any such personnel who died of self-inflicted wounds. The bill also provides that military personnel “Killed in Action” as a result of any conflict involving U.S. Forces shall be placed in the Virginia War Memorial. Currently, such placement is limited to those “Killed in Action” as a result of the Persian Gulf Conflict.

6. Fiscal impact estimates: Indeterminate. See Item #8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: In the narrow sense, this bill would only impact those Virginians who are “killed in action” according to the new definition in the bill, but who are not eligible under the current War Memorial policy. In the broader sense, it is unclear whether this policy would apply retroactively to previous conflicts, whether names would have to be added (or removed) from past conflicts, etc. If applied retroactively, this bill would likely require a multi-year research project to determine these names, beginning with the Revolutionary War. The cost under either scenario cannot be determined, although the costs associated with the broader interpretation could greatly increase any costs associated with this bill.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Virginia War Memorial, Department of Veterans Services.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: Consideration should be given to clarifying the extent of this legislation. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation Board of Trustees met on January 13, 2009 and is currently reviewing this issue. This bill is similar to HB 2192.

Date: 1/16/09/jlv

Document: G:\08-10\09 FIS\HB1875.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Public Safety