

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1512

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

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: **Department of Veterans Services; burial vaults at state-operated veterans cemeteries.**

5. Summary: This bill requires the Department of Veterans Services to provide burial vaults at no costs to eligible veterans and family members interred at state-operated veterans cemeteries from such funds as may be appropriated or otherwise received for that purpose.

6. Fiscal impact estimates: Preliminary.

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2009	-	-	-
2010	\$286,000	-	GF
2011	\$270,000	-	GF
2012	\$270,000	-	GF
2013	\$270,000	-	GF
2014	\$270,000	-	GF
2015	\$270,000	-	GF

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 426.

8. Fiscal implications: A burial vault is an in-ground protective concrete shell into which a casket is placed. It stabilizes the cemetery grounds by preventing subsidence around the burial site. At national cemeteries, the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides burial vaults at no cost. At Virginia's state veterans cemeteries, veterans must currently purchase burial vaults from a funeral home at a cost of \$800 to \$1,200. The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is able to purchase burial vaults in bulk for approximately \$450 per vault. To provide this service to Virginia veterans and eligible family members would require additional resources of \$270,000 annually.

In addition, a special piece of equipment, a vault cart, is needed to place a burial vault in the ground. The Suffolk cemetery has a vault cart and the planned Dublin cemetery will have a vault cart. One-time funding of \$16,000 would be required to purchase a vault cart for the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 1/28/09/jlv

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety