

## Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB174

House of Origin	<u>  X  </u>	Introduced	<u>      </u>	Substitute	<u>      </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u>      </u>	In Committee	<u>      </u>	Substitute	<u>      </u>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Cox, M.K.

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** **Veterans Services; eliminates requirement that Wounded Warrior Program cover only combat injuries**

**5. Summary:** This bill eliminates the requirement that the Wounded Warrior Program cover only injuries sustained by military service personnel in combat areas. The bill contains a technical amendment.

**6. No fiscal impact.** Final.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The legislation conforms the Code to current practice of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program. When enacted, the intent of the language was that service members who had served in “combat areas” such as Iraq and Afghanistan would be served as the target population. The change clarifies that the program serves veterans and family members, regardless of their era of service or whether they served on the front lines of combat.

A primary mission of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program is to connect veterans and their families with existing services available through the Veterans Administration and other resources. The majority of veterans and family members seen to date have been screened, assessed, and referred to existing services available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Virginia Department of Veterans Services benefits services, Department of Social Services, or other entities. The Department of Veterans Services attempts to exhaust all existing treatment options before using program funds for treatment and rehabilitation.

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

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/28/10/jlv

**Document:** G:\10-12\FIS\HB174.Doc Janet Vogelgesang

cc: Secretary of Public Safety