

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 2357

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: Delegate Torian

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Extend eligibility for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program

5. Summary: This bill extends the benefits of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to the spouse or child of a veteran with at least a 90 percent permanent, service-related disability. Under current law, the spouse or child would be eligible for benefits only if the veteran's disability was incurred during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict. The bill also requires the Department of Veterans Services to define "armed conflict" pursuant to regulation.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 144.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Section 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would expand the eligibility of the program to non-combat related disabilities. According to the Department of Veterans Services, the number of applicants to this program that did not qualify, due to non-combat related disabilities, in FY 2016 was 226, which is less than 502 applicants in FY 2015. The current award amount for this program is \$1,800 per year per student. In order to expand the program to include approximately 230 additional applicants from FY 2016, \$414,000 (GF) in additional support would be required unless the current award amount was reduced.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Virginia's public institutions of higher education, and the Department of Veterans Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 01/20/17

c: Secretary of Education