

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2021 Special Session I Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1150ER

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☒ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Kiggans

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses.

**4. Title:** Department of Veterans Services; Military Spouse Liaison; position created.

**5. Summary:** Establishes a Military Spouse Liaison position within the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to conduct outreach and advocate on behalf of military spouses in the Commonwealth. The duties of this position are to: (1) provide assistance and information to military spouses seeking professional licenses and credentials or other employment in the Commonwealth; (2) coordinate research on issues facing military spouses and create informational materials to assist military spouses and their families; (3) examine barriers and provide recommendations to assist military spouses in accessing high quality child care and developing resources in coordination with military installations and the Department of Education to increase access to high quality child care for military families; (4) develop, in coordination with the Virginia Employment Commission and employers, a common form for military spouses to complete, highlighting specific skills, education, and training to help military spouses quickly find meaningful employment in relevant economic sectors; and (5) perform any other duties or responsibilities assigned by the Commissioner. The Liaison shall also submit an annual report, including any legislative recommendations, through the Commissioner to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Governor, and the General Assembly on or before December 1 of each year and other reports to the Commissioner as required by the Commissioner.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 464.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), the Military Spouse Liaison position is expected to cost \$147,500 in Fiscal Year 2022 and \$125,200 in subsequent years (FY23 and ongoing). This includes \$125,200 in salary, fringe benefits, and ongoing supply needs for a remote position. It also includes \$22,300 in one-time costs in the first year to cover start-up supply costs (including a laptop, printer, phone, etc.) and to perform a one-time database modification that will allow the agency to collect the information required by the bill.

According to the Department of Education (DOE), the agency does not anticipate a fiscal impact on its operations as a result of the provisions of this bill. According to the Virginia

Employment Commission (VEC), any additional impact as a result of the proposed legislation can be absorbed within the agency's existing resources.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Veterans Services, Virginia Employment Commission, and Department of Education.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.