

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2022 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 778

Special Session:

Patron: Williams

Date: 1/21/2022

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Relocation of monument and memorials. Requires a locality that votes to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover certain war monuments or memorials to initiate a process to gift the monument or memorial to a nonprofit organization that is most related to the mission and spirit of the monument or memorial, at the locality's expense. The bill provides that the placement of the monument or memorial shall be decided by an independent committee and that a majority vote by the committee as to the relocation of the memorial is binding on the locality and shall be carried out within six months from the date of the committee's decision

Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 - \$0.5 million; however, the maximum fiscal impact includes the costs of removal and ancillary expenses.

Most localities reported that the bill would produce no fiscal impact, as their locality has no monuments that the bill would apply to. The localities that did report a negative fiscal impact indicated the costs would depend upon size and scope of the removal, in addition to the cost of staffing the public process set out in the bill (e.g., the independent committee, hearings, public outreach, etc.).

Local Analysis:

Locality: Amherst

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

cost is unknown

Locality: Augusta County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$2,000.00

The County does not have any monuments. Creation of a committee and moving memorials would take time and expense. Nominal amount shown as a response to this inquiry.

Locality: City of Alexandria..

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

The City of Alexandria no longer has any monuments or memorials for which this proposed bill would apply to.

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**Locality:** City of Manassas

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Manassas as a result of this legislation.

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Locality: City of Winchester

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$15,000.00

This would be for cost of advertising, creating the committee, and the moving costs. This is a pure estimate as we are not sure about the cost to move a statue, as we have not done so.

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**Locality:** County of Mecklenburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Overall, the bill may cost dependent upon the structure size, weight, and fixed location; transport distance; and if government staff conducts the work or a contractor. Presumably, this bill is prospective and therefore all prior movements are deemed final and this process will not have to be operated for prior movements.

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Locality: County of York

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$15,000.00

York only has 1 monument that would be effected by this bill. If there was not a place to put the monument that is already owned by the County, property would need to be purchased. That estimate would be \$10,000 along with the cost to actually move it which is estimated to be \$5000.

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**Locality:** Montgomery County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

As the bill is written, it does not appear that HB 778 would impact the County or require resources or additional staff.

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Locality: Norfolk

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$500,000.00

Fiscal impact estimate is for the cost of the removal of the monument, moving the monument off city property, and demolition of site.
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**Locality:** Prince George County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

This bill would minimal or no fiscal impact as it would result in only changing the process to remove monuments or memorials. We estimate no impact.

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Locality: Rappahannock County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1.00

The language of the proposed amendment is not sufficiently clear to allow a clear determination of a fiscal impact:

"If the governing body votes to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover the monument or memorial, the local governing body shall initiate a process to gift the monument or memorial to a nonprofit organization that is most related to the mission and spirit of the monument or memorial, at the locality's expense."

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**Locality:** Richmond County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

n/a

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Locality: Town of Blacksburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$10,000.00

Relocation expenses for any monuments the Town may have. At this time, the Town does not have any war memorials.

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**Locality:** Town of Christiansburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$10,000.00

Putting a cost on this would be pre-supposing that Town Council would desire to remove, relocate, contextualize, or cover a war monument or memorial, which is not planned or pending on their agendas. If Town Council were to pursue this, I would estimate around \$10,000 to set up the required committee, and to actually gift the monument or memorial.

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Locality: Town of Leesburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

The Town does not have any such memorials to be relocated.

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**Locality:** Town of Luray

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$250,000.00

Costs to relocate monuments even by donation are extreme.

The Commonwealth should establish legislation and funding that all relocation should be conducted by the State.

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Locality: Town of Marion.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

None in town

Locality: Town of Scottsville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$10,000.00

The existing text of the bill involves certain local costs for public hearings, referenda, or construction. The new text relates only to a committee process.

The locality would likely have certain support costs for such a committee, similar to existing project committees. This would be a temporary body not permanent, but likely with a high level of public interest. This means clerical staffing, recording, and community outreach.

The \$10,000 figure represents staff time for the Town Clerk, meeting supplies, postage, and similar incidentals for a public process. It would depend mainly on the duration of the process.

Professional and Other Organization

Analysis:

Organization: PDC

As the independent committee would presumably be considered a public body, the locality will not only incur the costs of following the disposal terms herein but also be required to resource the committee for the period it is formed to make the determination. It would seem that there may be other viable options for disposition beyond nonprofit organizations which could prove to be more cost effective. Depending on quantity of monuments, this could require 0.5 FTE (approx \$26k) for appropriate staff to provide the necessary support to the Committee and manage the process for disposition. Relocation expenses would be determined per monument and could become a barrier to determining the most appropriate recipient of disposition if cost prohibitive with no provision to share in the cost for the gift.
