

## Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1565

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

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

**2. Patron:**    Convirs-Fowler

**3. Committee:** Committee Referral Pending

**4. Title:**    Burial fees for military spouses.

**5. Summary:** Provides that, from such funds as may be appropriated, the Commonwealth shall pay the burial fees charged for the burial at a veterans cemetery operated by the Department of Veterans Services for (i) a member of the National Guard and Reserve, (ii) a spouse of an active duty member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces or a spouse of a member of the National Guard and Reserve, or (iii) a surviving spouse of such member or veteran.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 471. The Introduced Budget (HB1400/SB800) provides funding associated with this legislation.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8).

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This proposal eliminates burial fees for (i) National Guard and Military Reserve members, (ii) the spouse of active duty members or veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States or a spouse of a member of the National Guard and Reserve, and (iii) a surviving spouse of a member or veteran. Currently, the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) charges between \$1,700 and \$2,000 for National Guard and Reserve members and \$400 for spouses and dependents of veterans. The fees are used to support the operations of three state-run cemeteries in Suffolk, Dublin, and Amelia. The Governor's introduced budget (HB 1400/SB 800) provides \$400,000 general fund support annually starting in FY 2024 to eliminate the burial fees based on projections and analysis from prior years' burials and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs veteran population data.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Veterans Services.

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

**11. Other Comments:** This is the companion bill to SB 924.