

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2362H1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Wiley

3. Committee: Committee on Appropriations

4. Title: Burial fees for military spouses and members of the National Guard and Military Reserves

5. Summary: Provides that, from such funds as may be appropriated, the Commonwealth will pay the burial fees at veterans cemeteries run by the Department of Veterans Services of (i) a member of the National Guard and Reserve; (ii) a spouse of an active duty member or veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or a spouse of a member of the National Guard and Reserve; or (iii) a surviving spouse of such member or veteran. The Department of Veterans Services will develop guidelines for the administration of this section.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. Item 471 of the Introduced Budget (HB1400/SB800) includes funding associated with this proposal.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the Department of Veterans Services 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 (HB1400/SB800) 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: None.