

Fiscal Analysis: A number of different factors are needed to operate and maintain a museum including staff, facilities, and exhibits. The costs of these factors are dependent on the eventual size and scope of the museum. While the bill does not provide a specific size and scope for the proposed museum, the potential general fund operating costs for a museum similar to other regional state-supported museums could range between \$1.2 and \$3.5 million annually. The bill provides that the museum may charge admissions fees and accept donations; however, at this point any such revenue is indeterminate. The second enactment clause of

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the bill allows the agency to contract with an existing nonprofit organization to operate the museum. The costs of such an operating agreement are presently unknown.

The capital needs of the Museum of the Virginia National Guard are indeterminate at this time; however, the Department of Military Affairs submitted a capital budget request for consideration in the 2024 General Assembly Session to construct a facility for the Museum of the National Guard with an estimated project cost of \$67.4 million. Funding for that capital project was not included in the 2024 appropriation act. In November 2024, the Virginia National Guard announced plans to locate the Museum of the Virginia National Guard in its S. Gardner Waller Depot building and a multi-year effort to transform the site into a public museum and education campus. If the Museum of the Virginia National Guard is established as a state agency, independent of the Virginia National Guard and the Department of Military Affairs, it is not clear at this time if additional state support would be required for facility construction, renovation, or maintenance. State supported maintenance reserve appropriation for similar museums is approximately \$300,000 per year.

Other:

Department of Military Affairs capital budget request for the Museum of the National Guard

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