Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB2071 Patron: Thomas

Bill Title: Department of Veterans Services; powers and duties of Commissioner; identification of

incarcerated veterans.

Bill Summary: Provides that the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services shall utilize, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Re-Entry Search Services system to identify veterans incarcerated in state, local, or community correctional facilities to prepare such veterans for release and reentry, reduce recidivism and homelessness, provide behavioral health resources, and refer eligible veterans to behavioral health dockets.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 456

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: The Department of Veterans Services indicates it will incur additional personnel expenses to implement this proposal.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
Dept. of						
Veterans		\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742
Services						
TOTAL		\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742	\$113,742

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Dept. of						
Veterans		1	1	1	1	1
Services						
TOTAL		1	1	1	1	1

Fiscal Analysis: The proposal requires the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to utilize the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Re-Entry Search Services (VRSS) system to identify veterans incarcerated in state, local, and community correctional facilities. It requires DVS to coordinate justice, support, and reentry services for these veterans and to prepare such veterans for release and reentry, reduce

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the rates of recidivism and homelessness among such veterans, provide such veterans with behavioral health resources to address the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder, and refer eligible veterans to behavioral health dockets. Upon further review, the agency indicated that they would need one additional position for a Veteran Justice Specialist to implement this proposal and coordinate justice, support, and reentry services discussed above. The salary and benefit cost for the position is \$100,243 and \$13,499 in non-personnel costs, totaling \$113,742.

The bill also requires the agency to consult the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and Department of Criminal Justice Services.

The Department of Corrections indicated that the agency already utilizes the VRSS system and the impact of the proposal would be minimal. The impact on the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security and the Department of Criminal Justice Services is expected to be minimal and absorbable. The impact on Courts is indeterminate.

Other: HB2522 is a duplicative House Bill. Upon further review of the legislation, the agency believes that it will only need one position and the funding for that position at this time.