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

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Bill Number: HB1738 Patron: Reid

Bill Title: Deaths by suicide of veterans or active military, naval, and air service members; inquiry by

State Registrar of Vital Records; Department of Veterans Services annual report.

Bill Summary: Requires the State Registrar of Vital Records, when a death certificate is filed and lists suicide as the cause of death, to make an inquiry into whether the decedent was a veteran or active military, naval, or air service member and to provide any information concerning the suicide of such veteran or active military, naval, or air service member to the Department of Veterans Services. The bill also provides that the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services may request, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall deliver to the Commissioner, a copy of an autopsy report of a veteran or active military, naval, or air service member whose cause of death is determined to be a suicide. The bill also reestablishes the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator as the Suicide Prevention Program and requires such Program to, in coordination with the State Police, compile and analyze data relating to such suicides to be included in the annual report submitted by the Department to the Governor and the General Assembly.

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

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that the Department of Veterans Services will need one position for a Suicide Prevention Coordinator Manager position to oversee this program and \$139,732 in additional general fund appropriation to support the position.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
Dept. of						_
Veterans		\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732
Services						
TOTAL		\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
Dept. of						_
Veterans		1	1	1	1	1
Services						
TOTAL		1	1	1	1	1

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Fiscal Analysis: The proposal, in part, reestablishes the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator as the Suicide Prevention Program and requires such Program to, in coordination with the State Police, compile and analyze data relating to such suicides to be included in the annual report submitted by the Department to the Governor and the General Assembly. The proposed salary and benefit costs of the Suicide Prevention Coordinator is estimated to be \$139,732.

The Department of Health indicated that the fiscal impact to its Office of Vital Records is expected to be minimal and able to be absorbed by the agency. The Department of State Police (VSP), which would have to work in coordination with the Department of Veterans Services, indicated that the VSP did not anticipate a fiscal impact.

Other: None.