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

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Bill Number: HB1738E 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 service member and to provide any information concerning the suicide of such veteran or active military 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 deliver to the Commissioner, a copy of an autopsy report of a veteran or active military service member whose cause of death is determined to be a suicide and shall notify such decedent's next of kin that such autopsy report has been released. 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 Yes Items 273, 274, and 456

Necessary: Impacted:

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that the Department of Veterans Services will need an additional position for a Suicide Prevention Coordinator Manager position to oversee this program and \$139,732 in additional general fund appropriation to support the position. The Department of Health also indicates there may be an impact on the agency, but that the scope of that impact is indeterminate.

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		\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732
Services						
Dept. of Health		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
TOTAL		\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732	\$139,732

Position Impact:

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

Fiscal Analysis: The proposal, in part, reestablishes the position of Suicide Prevention Coordinator under the Department of Veterans Services 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 a Suicide Prevention Coordinator Manager position to oversee this program 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, however, in its Office of Chief Medical Examiner, the Department of Health expects to be impacted by the reporting requirement to notify the decedent's next of kin. While the exact fiscal impact is indeterminate, the Department does not believe it would be able to absorb this additional impact. 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.