

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Dept. of Veterans Services		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Dept. of Health		\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204
TOTAL		\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204	\$295,204

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) indicated that existing programs and funding could be utilized to meet the intent and requirements of this proposal.

The provisions in this legislation would have a fiscal impact on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The bill states, "Upon request, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall release such autopsy report to the decedent's attending physician and to the personal representative or executor of the decedent and shall notify such decedent's next of kin that such autopsy report has been released." As written, this would require OCME to notify the next-of-kin every time they release a copy of the autopsy report to a decedent's attending physician and to the personal representative. The language does not limit such notification only to veterans who died from suicide. This would be a significant increase in workload to identify the next-of-kin, ensure the information is accurate, and provide notice for all autopsy reports. In order for the OCME to meet the requirements of this legislation, the OCME will need to hire a wage staff member for each district office (Central, Northern, Tidewater, and Western), for a total of four wage staff positions. These staff members will be required to research the decedent's next-of-kin to ensure proper notification is being made.

OCME estimates the cost for one wage position would be \$73,801. This includes wages for 1,500 hours annually at \$25 an hour, FICA, VITA, and telephone. Four wage positions would cost \$295,204 annually.

Other: None.