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

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Bill Number: SB771ER **Patron:** McPike
Bill Title: Workers compensation; burial expenses; annual adjustment.

Bill Summary: Increases the amount required to be paid by an employer under workers compensation provisions for burial expenses from $10,000 to $15,000. The bill directs the Commissioner of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission to adjust the amount of burial expenses and reasonable transportation expenses required to be paid by an employer by a percentage equivalent to the percentage increase of the Average Consumer Price Index published by the U.S. Department of Labor beginning January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC) and the Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) indicate that any fiscal impact from this legislation is minimal and can be absorbed within current funding levels.

Fiscal Summary: The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC) indicates there would be minimal fiscal impact to the Uninsured Employer's Fund (UEF) for this bill. Over the past five years, there have only been a few death cases. Estimated fiscal impact to the UEF could be approximately $5,000 annually.

The Department of Human Resources Management (DHRM) indicate that Office of Workers Compensation and the OAG unit do not anticipate much of an impact on those programs, given the bill does not expand coverage and the $5,000 increase is minimal.

There will be an indeterminate impact on state agencies with the employment types included in the bill. However, any fiscal impacts realized will be minimal. The benefit amount is being raised by $5,000, and then increased by CPI in 2028, much like DHRM adjusts for COLA increases annually.

Fiscal Analysis: See fiscal summary.

Other: None.