

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB108ER

Patron: Ballard

Bill Title: Honor Guard Grant Program; Department of Veterans Services to establish.

Bill Summary: Requires the Department of Veterans Services to establish the Honor Guard Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants to veteran service organizations, defined in the bill, to offset expenses incurred by the organizations and members of the organizations' honor guards in providing honor guard burial details at the funerals of veterans in the Commonwealth, including expenses for training, transportation, food, equipment, and supplies.

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

Explanation: See below.

Fiscal Summary: The fiscal impact on the Department of Veterans Services as a result of this proposal is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: This proposal requires the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) to establish the Honor Guard Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants to veteran service organizations, defined in the bill, to offset expenses incurred by the organizations and members of the organizations' honor guards in providing honor guard burial details at the funerals of veterans in the Commonwealth. DVS indicates that each state veteran's cemetery has a dedicated group of volunteers that provide honor guard services at veteran's funeral services. According to DVS, the agency would be able to initially absorb the costs of establishing guidelines, procedures, and objective criteria for the award and distribution of the proposed grant, but may require additional personnel and resources once the program has been developed. The number of positions necessary is indeterminate at this time and the agency may submit a budget request for the 2027 Amended Budget if it is determined that additional support is necessary. The proposal does not establish the amount of funding for the grant program and is subject to the appropriation of the General Assembly and the Governor.

Other: House budget amendment Item 456 #1h provided \$25,000 one-time in FY 2027 for this bill.