



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1484

PRINTERS NO. 3338

PRIME SPONSOR: Gillen

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	See fiscal impact	See fiscal impact

SUMMARY:

Amends Act 75 of 1987 regarding the duties of the Department of General Services towards the preservation and construction of "Soldiers' Grove" and of the Medal of Honor Memorial.

ANALYSIS:

HB 1484 requires the Department of General Services to:

- Arrange for the fabrication of an additional bronze plaque in honor of any war or armed conflict officially engaged in by the United States after the Vietnam Conflict;
- Arrange for the placement of permanent low-lying decorative chain barriers within the Medal of Honor Memorial Gardens at the end of each concrete arc representing the "Tides of War";
- Arrange to have signs placed conspicuously around Soldiers' Grove stating "At All Times, Please Remember This Memorial is Hallowed Ground" to remind people to respect the Medal of Honor Memorial Gardens;
- Arrange for the appropriate preservation of "Soldiers' Grove" according to the third recommendation on page 18 of the report relating to the concept of erecting "Pillars of Time" pursuant to House Resolution 331. This report recommends to utilize the unused grassy space on the sides of the memorial and erect "Pillars of Time". This concept would involve erecting distinct pillars for future conflicts; the pillars could be extended vertically, pending height restrictions, to continue the theme of "passage of time". Additionally, the size and scope of the memorial stones may be modified to complement the pillars, as well as prevent future space limitations.

Nothing in this act is to be construed to limit the authority of the Department of General Services to comply with the provisions of this act while conforming to the original design of the Medal of Honor Memorial Gardens to the greatest extent possible. Additionally, HB 1484 stipulates that an improvement required under the act of October 30, 1987 (P.L. 375, No. 75) may only be undertaken if adequate funding is available.

Effective immediately

FISCAL IMPACT:

The changes and additions called for in HB 1484 are not nearly as extensive as the initial development of the "Tides of War" memorial located in Soldiers' Grove. In 1993 the cost of the original design and construction was approximately \$200,000. Taking into account the consumer price index, that cost today would be approximately \$330,000. At this time the Department of General Services is still in the process of determining the costs associated with the specifications of HB 1484.

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House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: May 23, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.