



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1231

PRINTERS NO. 2158

PRIME SPONSOR: Solomon

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 1231, Printer's Number 2158, amends Title 51 to require the Department of Military Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans registry for providing program and services information.

ANALYSIS: This legislation amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to establish a veterans registry, within the Department of Veterans Affairs (DMVA), in order to provide Pennsylvania's veterans with information regarding state benefits, programs, and services. Additional department duties are outlined in the bill related to the registry, such as providing access to a paper and online form which contains a statement of purpose for the registry. The form shall also be developed to solicit identifying information about the veteran and requests for various benefits and information for which the veteran may be eligible.

The department is to coordinate with other state agencies in developing a system for agencies to provide information regarding veterans who wish to be registered, including an opt-out provision for those who do not wish to be included in the registry. State agencies must also develop a way to identify veterans that the agency serves, in order to add those veterans the registry. The agencies must then provide DMVA with sufficient information on those veterans who wish to be registered.

The use of information collected for the registry for other purposes not specified under the bill may not be sold or used for commercial purposes and information collected under this section for the registry shall be exempt from being disclosed under the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law.

The department must submit a report to the Chairmen of both the Senate and the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees by July 31, 2018 and each year thereafter. The report on the registry shall include the following information: total number of veterans registered annually; number of registrants received by each state agency; number of veterans who chose to opt out of the registry; and the outreach expenses incurred by DMVA.

The Adjutant General may adopt and promulgate guidelines necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill.

The effective date of this legislation is 60 days after enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this bill will have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds. The bill outlines DMVA duties related to the registry that will result in additional administrative costs, but these are projected to be covered under existing staff and operations. The department will also monitor and outline these costs in its annual report to the General Assembly to identify if additional funds are necessary.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 28, 2017

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