



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 233

PRINTERS NO. 203

PRIME SPONSOR: O'Neal

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY: House Bill 233, Printer's Number 203, provides for the removal and replacement of unsightly flags from the graves of veterans.

ANALYSIS: This bill amends the Second Class County Code to clarify the responsibilities and provisions related to the decoration of deceased service members graves with flags purchased at the expense of the county, and the authority of cemeteries to remove and replace unsightly or weatherworn flags.

The county commissioners shall provide flags on each Memorial Day to decorate each grave of a deceased service person interred in the county. The flags shall be standard size, colorfast and American made and purchased at the expense of the county from money in the county treasury. Money expended by the county under this section shall be in addition to money appropriated by the county for Memorial Day purposes.

Family members of a person whose grave is decorated with a flag by the county for the purpose of Memorial Day may take and keep the flag after the first working day after Veterans' Day. A person other than a family member removing a flag shall be guilty of a summary offense. The penalty shall be a fine of \$300 upon conviction or a prison term not to exceed ninety days if not paid.

The county may coordinate with local veterans' organizations to ensure that cemeteries are decorated in compliance with this section. Flags shall be furnished to the various veterans' organizations in an amount needed for the respective communities.

A cemetery may remove flags as part of the cemetery's normal course of maintenance not before the first working day after Independence Day, but prior to Veterans' Day, provided that the cemetery makes the flags available to family members, veterans' organizations or other community organizations for the purpose of decorating graves in recognition of Veterans' Day.

Cemeteries are authorized to remove a flag when the flag has become unsightly or weatherworn any time on or after the first working day after Veterans' Day. Prior to Veterans' Day, a cemetery may request replacement flags from the county which may be used by the cemetery to replace weatherworn flags. A cemetery may also remove flag holders for annual storage upon the authorized removal of flags.

This legislation would take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation will have no impact on Commonwealth funds.

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Clukey
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: February 4, 2019

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