



# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

## FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 491

PRINTERS NO. 934

PRIME SPONSOR: Boback

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** House Bill 491, Printer's Number 934, amends Title 51 to exclude veterans' compensation benefits from income calculations for Commonwealth programs.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) to include a new chapter related to veterans' benefit payment exclusion, specifically for excluding one hundred percent of a veterans' benefit payment from income calculations for any Commonwealth program. This exclusion shall also apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a veteran for any compensation or payment the spouse is entitled to receive.

The bill also provides for additional definitions for "Commonwealth program," "Veteran" and "Veterans' benefit payment."

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

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Given the legislation applies to any Commonwealth program that considers an applicant's income eligibility, the immediate fiscal impact to the Commonwealth cannot be quantified without knowing the number of veterans and/or unmarried surviving spouses that would now be eligible to receive new or increased benefits from Commonwealth programs. There would be some fiscal impact upon various programs offered by Commonwealth agencies to the extent applicants meet income eligibility requirements.

It also should be noted that some programs currently eliminate state veterans' benefits from the definition of "income" when determining eligibility. These include low-cost prescription medication programs to qualified residents, including PACE and PACENET as provided through the Department of Aging.

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**DATE:** March 24, 2021

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