

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 233

**PRINTER NO.** 203

**AMOUNT**

No Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

January 28, 2019

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative O'Neal

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 233 amends the Second Class County Code to clarify the responsibilities related to the decoration of service members' graves and the authority for cemeteries to remove and replace decorations.

This legislation requires the county commissioner provided flags for deceased service members to be American made and stipulates the flags may only be removed by a family member after the first working day following Veterans Day or by cemetery staff if a flag has become unsightly or weather worn. A person convicted of the unauthorized removal of flags shall be subject to pay a fine of \$300. Failure to pay the fine shall result in a prison sentence of no more than 90 days.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There will be no fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds.

House Bill 233 will have no fiscal impact on county funds as counties currently provide flags for service member grave sites. Because the penalty for unauthorized removal of the flags is new, there is no estimate as to how many summary offense convictions can be expected. For each conviction, a fine of \$300 is to be paid.