

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 1421

PRINTER NO. 3271

AMOUNT

\$88,000

FUND

General Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 14, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Thomas

DESCRIPTION

House Bill 1421 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to permit the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) to request the services of members of the Pennsylvania National Guard for the purpose of providing burial details and to increase the daily stipend allowance for burial details.

Under this legislation, if a contract is executed, the DMVA shall pay an amount not exceeding \$250 for each day that the burial detail is provided.

This act shall take effect in 30 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The enacted FY 2021-22 General Appropriation Act appropriated \$99,000 for the Burial Detail Honor Guard, and the Governor’s Executive Budget for FY 2022-23 proposes to maintain funding for this appropriation at the current fiscal year’s level.

This funding provides burial detail honor guards from veterans’ groups for veterans who are to be buried at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies and the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. The DMVA administers the Burial Detail Honor Guard program in accordance with Title 51, §705.

According to the DMVA, there are 250 burial days annually at each of the three authorized cemeteries, totaling \$112,500 if all days were paid. The DMVA indicates that not all days are paid because some burial details currently volunteer their time.

This legislation increases the burial detail stipend allowance by \$100 from \$150 to \$250 per day. Assuming burial detail days are fully paid at all cemeteries, the full cost for this program would be \$187,000 annually, an increase of \$88,000 from the current budgeted amount.