

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5406

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS MEASURES HONORING THE HEROISM OF VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

## ***OFA Fiscal Note***

### ***State Impact:***

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	79,780	159,560
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	28,136	56,273
Soldiers, Sailors & Marines' Fund	SF - Cost	3.2 million	6.4 million
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Revenue Loss	Less than 50,000	Less than 50,000
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Cost	Minimal	None

Note: GF=General Fund; SF=Special Fund (Non-appropriated); TF=Transportation Fund

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill makes various changes related to several state agencies and results in the fiscal impacts described below.

**Sections 1 and 2** require the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to publish certain information and warnings related to veterans' support organizations on their website and do not result in a fiscal impact.

**Section 3** makes changes to the training requirements for veterans'

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<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.82% of payroll in FY 27.

service officers that do not result in a fiscal impact.

**Sections 4 and 5** provide dental benefits to certain eligible veterans, which results in: (1) an estimated cost of \$3.2 million in FY 27 and an annual cost of \$6.4 million beginning in FY 28 to the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund to cover the expenses of the program<sup>2</sup>, and (2) a cost to DVA of \$79,780 in FY 27 and an annual cost of \$159,560 beginning in FY 28 to administer a Veterans Dental Care Access Program, and (3) a cost of \$28,136 in FY 27 and an annual cost of \$56,273 beginning in FY 28 to the State Comptroller for fringe benefits. DVA does not possess the resources to meet the requirements of the bill and will require an Associate Fiscal/ Administrative Officer and administrative funding to establish and administer the program.

**Section 6** establishes a task force and does not result in a fiscal impact.

**Sections 7-9** expand certain motor vehicle benefits for veterans, active military members, and reserve members called to active service, as outlined in the bill. Revenue loss from foregone fees is anticipated, collectively, to be less than \$50,000 annually to the STF. The Department of Motor Vehicles is anticipated to incur minimal one-time administrative costs in FY 27 for implementing these provisions.

**Section 10** makes a change to the Birth-to-Three program that conforms to current practice and does not have a fiscal impact.

**Section 11-16** make various technical changes and rename a military training facility, and do not result in a fiscal impact.

### ***The Out Years***

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<sup>2</sup> Per data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs there are an estimated 11,000 veterans eligible for the program in the state, and it is anticipated that approximately 5,350 veterans will participate in the program. The average claim is estimated to be \$1,200. Actual cost will be dependent on participation and utilization of dental services.

***State Impact:***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number and cost of dental claims by eligible veterans and the number of fees exempted under the bill.

***Municipal Impact:*** None