

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB736

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Sewell

3. **Committee:** Conference

4. **Title:** Department of Law's Division of Consumer Counsel to convene a workgroup to examine the practice of persons receiving compensation for providing certain services regarding veterans' benefits matters.

5. **Summary:** Requires the Department of Law to convene a work group to examine and make recommendations regarding the practice of persons receiving compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, or the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The bill identifies required members and stakeholders of the work group. The work group shall report findings and recommendations by November 1, 2024. The bill defines veterans' benefits matter.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 1.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Veterans Services indicates the impact of participating in the workgroup can be absorbed with current resources.

The bill requires the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law (OAG) to convene a workgroup to examine and make recommendations regarding the practice of persons receiving compensation for preparing, presenting, prosecuting, advising, consulting, or assisting any individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, or the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The OAG indicates that the impact of this bill should be absorbed with current resources.

The work group shall have at least one member of the House of Delegates and one member of the Senate. The House of Delegates anticipates their portion of member compensation and travel expenses to be \$1,228. The Senate of Virginia anticipates their portion of member compensation and travel expenses to be \$1,228. Workgroups of this nature typically meet four times per year. As the report is due by November 1, 2024, these costs are based on two meetings in fiscal year 2025.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law, Department of Veterans Services, House of Delegates, Senate of Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: Yes. If the intention of the General Assembly was to have a representative from a Virginia agency representing veterans, it is recommended that the language be amended to state "the Virginia Department of Veterans Services". If the intention of the General Assembly was to have a representative from a federal government agency representing veterans, it is recommended that the language be amended to state "the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs".

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 3/8/2024