

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

123rd General Assembly of Ohio

BILL: Sub. S.B. 120

DATE: June 15, 1999

STATUS: As Reported by Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs

SPONSOR: Sen. Watts

LOCAL IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED: Yes

CONTENTS: Modifications to Veterans' Affairs law including the Purple Heart license plate, distribution of veterans' materials to public high schools, flying of Ohio burgees in Ohio Veterans Plaza, impersonation of an officer, designation of November 10 as "V.E.T.S Day", submission of discharge information to Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs

State Fiscal Highlights

STATE FUND	FY 2000	FY 2001	FUTURE YEARS
Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund (4W4)			
Revenues	\$12,795 loss	\$25,590 loss	\$25,590 loss declining over time
Expenditures	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
General Revenue Fund			
Revenues	Potential negligible gain	Potential negligible gain	Potential negligible gain
Expenditures	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
GRF (Department of Education)			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	\$17,675 increase	- 0 -	- 0 -
GRF (Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board)			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Approximate \$8,000 increase	Approximate \$8,000 increase	Approximate \$8,000 increase
GRF (Governor's Office of Veterans Affairs)			
Revenues	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential negligible increase	Potential negligible increase	Potential negligible increase
Reparations Fund			
Revenues	Potential negligible gain	Potential negligible gain	Potential negligible gain
Expenditures	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -

Note: The state fiscal year is July 1 through June 30. For example, FY 2000 is July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000.



- Loss of approximately \$25,590 annually to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund (4W4). To make up for this revenue loss, the BMV would instead draw from automobile registration fund money that otherwise would be distributed to local governments.
- Expenditure of \$17,675 by the Department of Education for the costs of purchasing, shipping and handling a copy of a book and video to each of the state's 707 public high school libraries.
- Requiring the Ohio burgees in Ohio Veterans Plaza to be flown continuously from May 6 to December 8 will be a substantial increase to the current number of days and will require burgee replacement, additional staff time and maintenance costs to the plaza, estimated at \$8,000 per year.
- The Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs will be required to maintain records of military release form DD214, from each county's commission members and service officers. As the office already maintains records of these forms for exiting officers, this provision will add a marginal burden to the staff.
- The Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs will assemble a military activation task force to determine whether proper support for any new military action is adequate. Additional expenses will create a minimal increase in expenditures for the Governor's Office.
- Negligible locally collected "court costs" revenue may be generated for the state GRF and Reparations Fund, a.k.a., Victims of Crime Fund.

Local Fiscal Highlights

LOCAL GOVERNMENT		FY 1999	FY 2000	FUTURE YEARS
Counties, Municipalities and Townships				
Revenues		- 0 -	\$25,590 total loss	\$25,590 total loss, declining over time
Expenditures		- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Counties and Municipalities				
Revenues	Potential negligible gain		Potential negligible gain	Potential negligible gain
Expenditures	Potential negligible increase		Potential negligible increase	Potential negligible increase
School Districts				
Revenues		- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Expenditures	Potential negligible increase		Potential negligible increase	Potential negligible increase

Note: For most local governments, the fiscal year is the calendar year. The school district fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

- Total loss to all counties, municipalities, and townships of approximately \$25,590 annually (see highlight regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles).
- Counties and municipalities could receive a small amount of court costs and fine revenue. Expenditures, if any, would be insignificant.

- The bill designates November 10th as Veterans Educate Today's Students Day (V.E.T.S. Day) and encourages school districts to invite Veterans to visit schools and discuss their military experience. This provision does not require school districts to acquire additional services or materials and would require no more than a potential negligible increase in school district expenditures.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

As this bill impacts a number of different agencies, the provisions and fiscal effects of the bill are described under the following subheadings listing those agencies affected.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Counties, Municipalities and Townships

The bill would eliminate the additional \$10 fee that a person pays to compensate the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) for the actual costs when renewing special plates to those who were awarded the Purple Heart. Since these fees represent actual costs incurred by the Bureau, the loss would have to be made up somewhere. The BMV would draw a larger portion of the automobile registration dollars that otherwise would be distributed to local governments.

Number of Purple Heart license plates issued/renewed*

Year	Licenses
1995	2,186
1996	2,554
1997	2,442
1998	3,052
1999**	822

*The BMV groups together plates issued and renewed

** Through the end of March 1999

According to records at the BMV, an average of 2,559 Purple Heart license plates were issued or renewed over the 1995-1998 period. Therefore, the loss to local governments would be approximately \$25,590 (2,559 X \$10) annually statewide.

Department of Education

The provisions of this bill require the Department of Education to provide each public high school library a copy of the book "Letters Home: The Letters of the Ohio Veterans Plaza" and a videotape of the Ohio Veterans Plaza. Together, these two items cost \$17 and there would be an approximate additional cost of \$8 (including staff time). Therefore, the cost of this distribution would be \$17,675 (\$25 X 707 public high school libraries).

Capitol Review and Advisory Board

The bill requires the Ohio burgees to be flown continuously from May 6 to December 8 each year in Ohio Veterans Plaza. Currently, the burgees are only flown before, during and after special events or holidays. Under the current usage pattern, a set of burgees will last approximately two years before replacement is needed.

If this bill is passed, the burgees will need to be replaced three times each season from wear and damage. The cost of all 88 burgees is \$1,628 and, therefore, the flags alone will cost \$4,884 (\$1,628 X 3 changes). The additional costs associated with this provision result from additional staff hours from doing the burgee change and maintenance issues. As the plaza is currently designed, the 88 stands are not engineered to support the strain from constant stress from the flags, especially during adverse weather. Therefore, replacement materials for the flag stands are included in the total \$8,000 approximate annual cost.

Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs Counties and Municipalities

When a military action commences, the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs will be required to convene a task force to determine the how prepared federal, state and county agencies are for the military activation. The task force will have a membership of 25 organizations (outlined in the bill) that will prepare a report outlining their findings. The members of the task force will be reimbursed for incurred expenses. Together, the personal support, report publication and expense reimbursement should only increase expenses of the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs marginally.

According to the bill, the Governor's Office on Veterans' Affairs will be responsible to record release form DD214 from all veterans serving on the 88 county commissions or acting as a service officer. The office has already been collecting these records for all veterans so the provision would cause only a marginal increase in expenditures.

The bill creates an additional first-degree misdemeanor for any person who impersonates a veteran (or benefit-eligible relative of a veteran) in an effort to receive financial assistance or benefits that are specifically for those with veteran status.

Fiscal Effects-Violations

When an individual is convicted of (or pleads guilty to) a misdemeanor offense, the court generally is required to collect an additional \$11 in court costs and then pay it into the state's GRF. Additionally, if an individual is convicted of (or pleads guilty to) a misdemeanor offense, the court generally is required to collect an additional \$9 in court costs and then pay it into the Reparations Fund, a.k.a., Victims of Crime Fund. Assuming that there will be few additional criminal cases created as a result of the bill, the amount of additional revenue generated for the GRF and reparations fund will be extremely small.

Local Revenue and Expenditures

Additional court costs and fine revenues may be generated for counties and municipalities. As there most likely will be few additional criminal cases created by the bill, the amount of revenue to be generated must be paid into the treasury of the municipal corporation in which the municipal court is located. However, in the case of county-operated municipal courts, court costs are generally paid into the county's treasury. Court costs collected in a county court must be paid into the county treasury.

School Districts

The bill encourages school districts to invite veterans to discuss their military experiences on November 10th, designated as Veterans Educate Today's Students Day (V.E.T.S. Day). Since the bill does not prescribe more than this encouragement, there is no requirement for school districts to acquire additional services or materials. Schools could conduct this provision through such methods as normal classroom instruction or building-wide assemblies that could be implemented with a negligible increase in school district expenditures.

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VET, CSR, GOV, PSD