152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 FOR SENATE BILL. NO. 221**
AS AMENDED BY:	**SA 2**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Wilson**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF A FLAG TO NEXT OF KIN.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act provides that upon request, the next of kin of a deceased law-enforcement officer, fire department member, member of the Delaware National Guard (DNG), correctional officer, or a probation and parole officer is entitled to a Delaware state flag if the deceased person served in at least one qualifying entity for at least ten years and died in the line of duty or while an active member.
3. The Act provides that upon the request of a next of kin, the following entities shall provide a Delaware state flag:
   a. The Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission, if the person served as a volunteer or paid member of a fire department in the state.
   b. The Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS), if the person served as a police officer.
   c. The Department of Correction (DOC), if the person served as a correctional officer or a probation and parole officer.
   d. The DNG, if the person served as a member of the DNG.
4. While the number of requests that each entity may receive is unknown, it is likely that there may be around 118 eligible persons whose next of kin may request a Delaware state flag per year.
   a. In 2022, the Insurance Coverage Office provided 175 burial benefits for a deceased member of a volunteer fire company, ladies auxiliary, or volunteer ambulance and rescue service. While the portion of volunteer fire company members is unknown, for purposes of this fiscal projection, out of the 175, it is assumed that 60%, or 105, were active members of a volunteer fire company. Historically, members maintain lifetime active status in the fire service.
   b. DSHS and DOC each estimate six line-of-duty or active-duty deaths per year.
   c. DNG estimates one line-of-duty or active-duty death per year.
5. The price of a Delaware state flag is estimated at $190. Therefore, the annual cost is estimated to be $22,420.

Cost:

	Operating/Recurring
Fiscal Year 2025:	$22,420
Fiscal Year 2026:	$22,420
Fiscal Year 2027:	$22,420

Prepared by Jason R. Smith
Office of the Controller General