



**153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL:	HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1
SPONSOR:	Representative Carson
DESCRIPTION:	AN ACT TO AMEND THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CREATION OF A DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Assumptions:

1. This Act is effective upon signature by the Governor. Upon signature, this Act takes effect 180 days after its enactment.
2. This Act creates a Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs ("Department"). Under the provisions of this Act, the Department is considered to be a division of the Department of State for administrative, budgetary, and operational purposes. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs ("Secretary") is directed to develop a transition plan to separate from the Department of State by July 1, 2030. The transition plan must be approved by the General Assembly.
3. This Act grants the Secretary administrative and operational authority over the Department. In addition, this Act further authorizes the Secretary to develop and propose strategies for providing additional assistance to the Delaware State Veterans' Home, the Delaware Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, as well as the Delaware Veterans' Trust Fund.
4. The Commission of Veterans Affairs will serve in an advisory role to the Secretary on all matters relevant to Delaware veterans.
5. The position of Secretary is assumed to be compensated at the Tier II Cabinet Secretary rate as contained in the Delaware Compensation Commission 2025 Final Report. It is assumed that 1.0 FTE, Administrative Management, PG20, currently located in the Office of the Governor and intended to be a veteran's liaison, will be transferred to the Department and reclassified as a Tier II Cabinet Secretary. For purposes of this analysis, the costs shown below represent the difference in Personnel Costs, including salary and other employment costs at a rate of 33.34%.
6. Fiscal Year 2026 costs have been calculated assuming the delayed implementation of the bill.
7. Personnel Costs are assumed to increase by 2% annually.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2026:	\$50,639
Fiscal Year 2027:	\$92,567
Fiscal Year 2028:	\$98,601

Prepared by Robert Scoglietti
Office of the Controller General