

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB479

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

2. **Patron:** Kilgore

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Death certificate; veterans; fees.

5. **Summary:** Expands list of parties eligible to obtain a free certified copy of a veteran's death certificate to include any funeral director or funeral service licensee who provides funeral services to the veteran, if so requested by the surviving spouse of the veteran.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate, see item #8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact this bill will have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined. This bill allows a funeral director or funeral service licensee to obtain a vital record free of charge, for the deceased veteran surviving spouse. The Code of Virginia currently allows the Virginia Office of Vital Records to provide one free copy of a vital record (birth, death, marriage and divorce) to the Department of Veterans Affairs and to the veteran or their survivor if the vital record is needed for service-connected benefits.

Within the last five years, there have been minimal requests to the Office of Vital Records, Local Health Departments or Department of Motor Vehicle for a vital record for service-connected benefits. It is likely, but not certain that this bill will result in a greater number of requests for free vital records for service-connected benefits, since funeral directors or funeral service licensees can now make the request. Over the last five years VDH has issued an average of 15,171 death certificates for decedents that were in the U. S. Armed Forces, which resulted in \$182,050 in revenue annually.

The Office of Vital Records is supported by nongeneral funds derived from the revenue collected from the sale of certified vital records. Any anticipated loss in revenue could have a significant impact on the operations of the Office of Vital Records.

This bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Social Services, or the Department of Veterans Services.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.