153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1**
AMENDED BY:	**HOUSE AMENDMENT 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 and is to be implemented 180 days after its enactment.

2. The 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. The 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. Further, one vacant position (Administrative Management PG 20) currently located in the Office of the Governor which was intended to be a veteran's liaison is assumed to be transferred to the Department and reclassified to the Cabinet Secretary position. The fiscal year costs shown below represent the difference in Personnel Costs of the two classifications.

6. Personnel Costs are assumed to increase by 2% for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2026:	$86,810
Fiscal Year 2027:	$92,567
Fiscal Year 2028:	$98,601

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