

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 34 (Delegates Leonold and Owings)

Commerce and Government Matters

Militia - Honor Guard - Compensation

This bill provides the Adjutant General in Maryland with statutory flexibility to set the pay of honor guard members assembled to attend the funeral of a deceased veteran. Members of the honor guard will receive compensation as set by the Adjutant General but not to exceed the greater of 75% of one day's basic pay plus expenses or, under the bill's provisions, minimum wage plus expenses.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The Maryland Military Department already pays honor guard members minimum wage in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor standards. The bill provides a technical correction that brings Maryland law into compliance with federal law.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The pay for honor guard members is limited to 75% of one day's basic pay plus expenses.

Background: Since October 1998, the Maryland National Guard has provided honor guards at the funerals of more than 1,850 veterans. Effective January 2000, federal law requires the U.S. Department of Defense to provide burial honors detail, including the folding and presentation of the flag and the playing of Taps, for every eligible veteran upon request. As a

result, there may be less need for State sponsored honor guards.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland Military Department,
Department of Legislative Services

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