

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 430 (Chairman, Commerce and Government Matters Committee)
(Departmental – Military)

Commerce and Government Matters Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

Militia - Honor Guard - Compensation

This departmental bill increases the maximum compensation for members of the Maryland National Guard's Honor Guard attending burial services of a deceased veteran from 75% to 100% of one day's pay as determined by the current Department of Defense pay scale.

The bill is effective July 1, 2002.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$28,000 in FY 2003 due to the increase in maximum compensation to honor guard members. The bill's requirements would be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: The Maryland Military Department has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: The compensation for honor guard members attending burial services of a deceased veteran is limited to the greater of 75% of one day's basic pay plus expenses or the minimum wage plus expenses.

Background: Compensation for members of the Maryland National Guard's Honor Guard attending burial services of a deceased veteran last changed in 2000 (Chapter 93 of 2000). The maximum compensation for members of the Maryland National Guard's Honor Guard was altered to 75% of one day's basic pay plus expenses incurred or minimum wage plus expenses incurred, whichever is greater. The Maryland Military Department advises that honor guards in New York, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Missouri, and California receive 100% of one day's pay when attending the funeral of a deceased veteran.

State Fiscal Effect: The Maryland National Guard provides honor guard services at more than 2,000 veterans' funerals annually. The Maryland National Guard currently employs 62 officers in the honor guard including 12 full-time State employees, 15 part-time State employees, 15 full-time contractual employees, 12 call-up officers, 6 buglers, and 2 part-time Air National Guard members. The daily maximum compensation of honor guard members varies due to employment status and years of service. The Military Department advises that expenditures would increase by \$28,000 in fiscal 2003 for increased compensation for honor guard members and that existing budgeted resources would be sufficient to cover increased compensation to honor guard members.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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