

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY FISCAL NOTE STATEMENT
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION
2022 REGULAR SESSION**

MEASURE

2022 BR NUMBER 861

HOUSE BILL NUMBER 381

TITLE AN ACT relating to hospital after-care for veterans.

SPONSOR Representative Bill Wesley

FISCAL SUMMARY

STATE FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNCERTAIN

OTHER FISCAL STATEMENT(S) THAT MAY APPLY: ☐ ACTUARIAL ANALYSIS
☐ LOCAL MANDATE ☐ CORRECTIONS IMPACT ☐ HEALTH BENEFIT MANDATE

APPROPRIATION UNIT(S) IMPACTED: Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

FUND(S) IMPACTED: ☒ GENERAL ☐ ROAD ☐ FEDERAL ☐ RESTRICTED _____

FISCAL ESTIMATES	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	ANNUAL IMPACT AT FULL IMPLEMENTATION
REVENUES				
EXPENDITURES		\$1,128,700	\$1,128,700	
NET EFFECT		(\$1,128,700)	(\$1,128,700)	

() indicates a decrease/negative

PURPOSE OF MEASURE: This measure would require hospitals to contact the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) when discharging an individual with a serious physical injury or trauma that has been determined to be a veteran. KDVA shall initiate contact with the veteran, legal guardian, or caregiver within one (1) business day to ensure the veteran receives services, resources, or other entitlements related to the trauma or injury.

FISCAL EXPLANATION: The KDVA estimates that the legislation will result in increased costs for the Benefits Division of the agency due to the need to hire clinical staff or social service workers that can provide services and assistance of a medical nature. The KDVA estimates the cost of the measure to be \$1,128,700 in each year of the 2022-2024 biennium as a floor, adjusting costs beyond 2024 based on the number of veterans served. This amount includes the cost of ten clinically qualified representatives, one Supervisor, and one Administrative Specialist that would be needed to cover the 19 districts that service 295,000 veterans.

As of now, it is indeterminable how many veterans may need these types of services. No statistics are available for the number of Kentuckians hospitalized for "serious physical injury" as defined by KRS 500.080 to estimate the number of veterans that may be eligible for services from KDVA under this bill. However, the number of incidents of "trauma", as defined by KRS 311A.010, is available through the Kentucky Trauma Registry. The most recent Annual

Kentucky State Trauma Registry Report, from 2019, identified 12,473 incidents of trauma amongst age groups that could plausibly be considered of age to be veterans. Based on the percentage of Kentucky's veteran population, an estimated 1,000 veterans could experience physical trauma annually and could receive services or assistance from KDVA.

DATA SOURCE(S): LRC Budget Staff, Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, Kentucky State Trauma Registry, U.S. Census Bureau, Cabinet for Health and Family Services

PREPARER: Emma Mills/Kevin Newton NOTE NUMBER: 63 REVIEW: JAB DATE: 2/16/2022