



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 199

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 5737

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. BOYD of the 50th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CREATING A VETERANS AND MILITARY TOURISM TRAIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2021*) The Department of Economic
2 and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner
3 of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's designee, shall establish a
4 Veterans and Military Tourism Trail linking museums, memorials,
5 battleground sites and other historic sites in the state relating to veterans
6 and the United States armed forces. The Department of Economic and
7 Community Development and the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs,
8 or the commissioner's designee, shall jointly determine which
9 museums, memorials, battleground sites and other historic sites to
10 include in the Veterans and Military Tourism Trail. The Department of
11 Economic and Community Development shall establish a program to
12 publicize the existence of the Veterans and Military Tourism Trail and
13 shall publish a brochure that indicates the location and history of each
14 site. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, or the commissioner's
15 designee, shall solicit funds to cover the costs of implementing such

16 program and brochure.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section

VA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Department of Economic & Community Development	Tourism Fund - Cost	up to 50,000	up to 10,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Implementing the tourism trail that the bill requires is anticipated to cost up to \$50,000 to cover start-up costs and then up to \$10,000 annually thereafter to maintain the trail. These estimates assume the Department of Economic and Community Development is able to leverage existing state resources to conduct the necessary historical research, build out and host a commercial website, design and produce printed materials.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5737*****AN ACT CREATING A VETERANS AND MILITARY TOURISM TRAIL.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to establish a Veterans and Military Tourism Trail that links museums, memorials, battleground sites, and other historic sites related to veterans and the U.S. Armed Forces. DECD must consult with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) commissioner, or his designee, on the trail's establishment and they must jointly select sites to include on the trail.

The bill, additionally, requires DECD to (1) establish a program to publicize the trail and (2) publish a brochure that provides information on each site's location and history. It requires the DVA commissioner, or his designee, to solicit funds to cover the costs of both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/18/2021)