



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1051

FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 20-0157	Date:	January 13, 2020
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Rich; Duran Sen. Scott; Crowder	Bill Status:	House SVMA
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Bill Topic: ID OF VETERAN REMAINS FOR PROPER MILITARY BURIAL

Summary of Fiscal Impact: **No fiscal impact.** The bill permits authorized organizations to identify unclaimed cremated remains of veterans and facilitate final interment at a state or national veterans cemetery.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

The bill permits a veteran's remains recovery organization to determine if unclaimed cremated remains are of United States military veterans or qualified family members, and further requires that a facility in possession of the cremated remains transfer those remains to a national cemetery or state veterans' cemetery for final interment.

Background

The Missing In America Project is an example of a veterans' remains recovery organization active in Colorado and other western states. The organization works closely with funeral homes, mortuaries and cremation facilities to identify unclaimed remains that may be military veterans. In 2019, the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) worked with the project to inter 26 veterans and two eligible spouses. In the last 5 months, the DMVA interred the unclaimed cremated remains of six veterans.

Assessment

The bill is not anticipated to effect operations or expenditures of the state veterans' cemetery (Homelake Military Veterans Cemetery located in Monte Vista, Colorado) or of the DMVA. Giving legal authority to a veterans' remains recovery organization to determine the status of unclaimed cremated remains does not increase the number of remains identified for interment by DMVA. The bill merely codifies existing practice. The bill does not change the revenue, expenditures, or workload of any state or local government. For these reasons, this bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 5, 2020, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2020, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Judicial Law Military Affairs