

# FISCAL NOTE

June 27, 2017

<b>Bill No:</b>	HB 980	<b>Printer's No:</b>	2153	<b>Sponsor:</b>	Boback (R)
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### COST / (SAVINGS)

<b>Fund (s)</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
General Fund	\$0	See "FISCAL IMPACT"

**SUMMARY:** This bill would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) providing for the exemption of veterans' benefit payments when calculating income for commonwealth programs.

**ANALYSIS:** House Bill 980 would 100 percent exempt a veterans' benefit payment when calculating income upon application for a commonwealth program. "Veterans' benefit payment" would be defined as payment or compensation received by a veteran that is directly related to or the result of the veteran's service-connected disability as determined by the United States Veterans Administration. The exclusion would apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a veteran for any compensation or payment the unmarried surviving spouse is entitled to receive.

This act would be effective 60 days upon passage.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Additional funding would be required for various commonwealth programs as participation increases due to the exclusion of veterans' benefit payments in determining program eligibility and its extension to unmarried surviving spouses. However, it is difficult to determine the additional funding needed because the number of newly eligible individuals and the affected commonwealth programs are unknown.