

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB636

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Cosgrove

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Department of Veterans Services; hyperbaric oxygen therapy; data collection.

5. Summary: Provides that the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) may contract with any hospital in the Commonwealth that furnishes the treatment option of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to provide such therapy to any veteran in the Commonwealth who has been certified as having post-traumatic stress disorder or a traumatic brain injury. DVS shall include in any contract with such hospital the requirement that data be collected to assess the efficacy of the therapy for such veterans, and other information DVS deems relevant.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation permits the agency to enter into a contract with any hospital that furnishes the treatment option of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to provide such therapy to any veteran. According to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), should the agency enter into such a contract with hospitals, it may need additional resources for a part-time wage position for purposes of collecting and assessing data. Because the legislation is permissive, it is not clear when the agency would enter into such a contract. However, the estimated cost for a part-time position is \$50,000 annually.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Veterans Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.