

Department of Planning and Budget
2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1351

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Purkey

3. Committee

4. Title Absentee ballots; solicitation in hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Elections; solicitation of absentee ballot applications or ballots. Makes it unlawful for anyone to solicit, in person, absentee ballot applications or ballots in any hospital, nursing home, or assisted living facility. The prohibition does not apply to family members or to general or assistant registrars, electoral board members or their staffs. A violation of the section is a Class 1 misdemeanor under § 24.2-1017.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Unknown

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications:

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. According to the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, not enough information is available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds the majority of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs varies from locality to locality. According to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2002), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$29.80 per inmate, per day in FY 2002.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: General Registrars and local governments

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 1/27/04 mtb

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cc: Secretary of