

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB88

House of Origin X Introduced ___ Substitute ___ Engrossed
 Second House ___ In Committee ___ Substitute ___ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Marshall, R.G.

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** **Voter registration; adds party affiliation to information applicant to provide.**

5. **Summary:** This bill adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote beginning January 1, 2009. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2009, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time except the 28 days before an election when the registration records are closed. The state party chairman must notify the State Board by January 31 of each year whether the party will close its primaries and permit only registered party members to participate or whether it will open its primaries to party members and independent voters.

6. **Fiscal impact estimates are preliminary.**

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2008	\$0		
2009	\$191,000		General
2010	\$0		
2011	\$0		
2012	\$0		
2013	\$0		
2014	\$0		

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 89, HB 30.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The State Board of Elections will incur costs to change and reprint the voter registration form. Minimal costs for receiving and processing forms from voters updating party affiliation will also be incurred by both the State Board of Elections and local general registrar offices.

The cost to reprint and distribute inventories of new voter registration applications is estimated to be \$81,000. The State Board of Elections provides inventories of blank applications to designated state agencies, many non-profit organizations, and to all 134 general registrar offices throughout the Commonwealth. Developing, reproducing and

distributing a new form to allow current registrants to change their party affiliation would cost \$10,000.

Adding part affiliation to the voter registration form will require major changes to the current voter registration system (VERIS). Changes the database structures and poll book processing, as well as creation of new reports through the registration system is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000. A more accurate estimate for the changes from the voter registration system vender, Quest, is pending.

State Board of Elections Estimated Expenses

Programming changes to voter registration system	\$100,000
Reprint and distribution of blank voter registration forms (1.3 million forms x \$0.06)	\$81,000
Reprint and distribution of form for current voter registrants	\$10,000

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections, local electoral boards

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: Same as HB 20.

Date: 1/30/2008 egw

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cc: Secretary of Administration