

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB628

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** LeMunyon

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Elections; voter registration; political party affiliation.

**5. Summary:** Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may choose to be listed as independent or undesignated. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2013, will be listed as undesignated unless they provide a political party affiliation or independent status in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or status by written notice at any time except during the period before an election when the registration records are closed. The bill does not change Virginia's present primary laws, and all registered voters remain eligible to participate in the primaries of any political party.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 87, HB 30

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, See Item 8

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2012	0	0	General Fund
2013	\$555,000 - \$705,000	0	General Fund
2014	\$450,000 - \$600,000	0	General Fund

**8. Fiscal Implications:**

The implementation and ongoing expenses of registration by political party will require significant modifications to Virginia's statewide voter registration system (VERIS), amounting to approximately \$80,000 for FY 2013. SBE estimates that approximately \$25,000 will be needed to develop pollbook production processes that will account for party registration as well as for an informational campaign to inform voters of the option to register by political party. The most costly aspect of registration by political party will be the sending of new voter cards to voters after the party identification is added to their voter record. The legislation requires registrars to mail a new vote registration card when this happens. Estimates for the costs of printing and mailing vary from approximately \$450,000 to \$600,000 in FY 2013 and vary from approximately \$555,000 to \$705,000 FY 2014 depending on the percentage of voters who have chosen to have party identification added to their voter record which is estimated to be between the range of 60 percent to 80 percent of voters over this two year period.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Board of Elections, local governments

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** N/A

**Date:** 1/23/2012