

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1942

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Landes

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Vote centers; pilot program.

5. Summary: Authorizes the State Board of Elections to provide for a pilot program in which localities may establish vote centers for use in primary elections instead of having to operate a polling place for every precinct in the locality. A vote center will consist of a location where voters from two or more designated precincts may vote. The State Board shall publish a report on the program by August 15 of any year in which a vote center is used. The provisions of the bill expire on December 31, 2016.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: The State Board of Elections indicates that implementing vote centers on a large scale and permanent basis would likely have a fiscal impact on the State Board of Elections, particularly with necessary changes to VERIS, the Commonwealth's statewide voter registration. Due to the fact that the legislation only calls for a pilot, SBE indicates that they can attempt to use existing VERIS functionality to administer any elections administered with vote centers. SBE can absorb the various administrative tasks called for in this legislation.

SBE also indicates that general registrars will be responsible for ensuring their voters are aware of the pilot. Raising this awareness may require a postcard or new voter card mailed to impacted voters. The potential savings to localities for utilizing vote centers in primaries could be significant.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections, General Registrar's offices

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: n/a

11. Other Comments: none

Date: 1/21/13

Document: G:\2013 FIS's\SBE\HB1942.DOC

c: