

Department of Planning and Budget

2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2264

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

2. **Patron:** Krupicka

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Early voting in anticipation of certain emergencies.

5. **Summary:** Provides that the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and President pro tempore of the Senate, acting jointly, may declare a weather-related emergency and order polls opened for early voting for one to three days during the five days before an election.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 87

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Positions</i> | <i>Fund</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2014 | \$80,000 | 0 | GF |

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The State Board of Elections (SBE) estimates the current one-time cost for the agency to implement this legislation at \$80,000. This estimate entails a major change to VERIS, the Commonwealth's statewide voter registration system. Costs to revise, translate, replace the forms, and update voter education and guidance documents to address early voting can be absorbed by the agency. In 2011, the actual implementation costs to SBE for legislation affecting absentee eligibility was \$45,000. SBE estimates that the current cost will be higher because these kinds of changes affecting VERIS absentee functions must be classified as major changes which cost approximately \$80,000.

SBE indicates that local governments could potentially incur significant costs for opening polls early. These costs could include (1) expanded operating hours, and (2) a high demand on the precincts required to be open. Additional costs to rent the facilities may be incurred or emergency relocations may be needed if a polling place cannot be available on early voting days. These added costs would vary by locality and are similar to no excuse in person absentee voting generally.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** n/a

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/22/13

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