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**HOUSE BILL NO. 77**

Offered January 8, 2014

Prefiled December 9, 2013

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 6 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-642.1, relating to vote-by-mail elections; pilot program.*

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Patron—Simon

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Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 6 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-642.1 as follows:**

**§ 24.2-642.1. Vote-by-mail elections; pilot program.**

A. *The State Board of Elections shall develop a pilot program for a vote-by-mail system for elections. Development of such a pilot program shall include the promulgation of guidelines and administrative procedures for the implementation and operation of such a vote-by-mail system and the production of necessary materials, including mail-in ballots and envelopes.*

B. *Localities may opt into the pilot program for one or more elections. The decision to participate shall be made by the local electoral board and shall be made no later than 90 days preceding the next election to be conducted by mail. Notice that the election shall be conducted by mail shall be mailed to all registered voters in that locality at least 60 days prior to the election. Notice shall also be given by posting on the official website of the locality. A locality opting into the pilot program shall conduct the election entirely by mail. The provisions of § 24.2-600 apply to elections conducted under this section.*

C. *The purpose of the pilot program is to study the efficacy and cost savings of a vote-by-mail system for elections and the impact such a system has on voter participation.*

D. *The State Board of Elections shall publish a report by December 15 of any year in which a locality participates in the pilot program.*

**2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on December 31, 2017.**

INTRODUCED

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