

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB126

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

2. **Patron:** O'Bannon

3. **Committee:** Science and Technology

4. **Title:** Absentee voting and procedures; secure return of voted military-overseas ballots.

5. **Summary:** Absentee voting and procedures; secure return of voted military-overseas ballots. Requires the State Board of Elections to provide instructions, procedures, and services to enable uniformed-service voters outside of the United States to return voted military-overseas ballots securely by electronic mail or fax. The bill requires the State Board, in consultation with local boards of election and general registrars, to develop and annually update security measures to ensure the accuracy and integrity of such votes and requires the Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth to approve the measures. The State Board is directed to convene a working group for the initial development of the security measures. Additionally, the State Board is directed to work with the U.S. Department of Defense to use smart cards issued to active-duty military personnel to authenticate and enable the return of such military-overseas ballots. The bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 83, program 723.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	\$27,786		GF
2016	\$27,786		GF
2017	\$27,786		GF
2018	\$27,786		GF
2019	\$27,786		GF
2020	\$27,786		GF

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The State Board of Elections (SBE) estimates the cost of maintaining 133 email accounts using 2014 VITA service rates at \$27,786 per year. It is unclear whether voting using email services provided from VITA would meet the requirements of the election laws and the bill, for that reason the following caveats should be stated: 1. the estimated cost is based on services available from VITA (a standard e-mail account for each locality plus

their secure envelope service) that are available to state agencies (\$17.41 per email account X 133 localities X 12 months a year = \$27,786); 2. the estimate does not consider any additional costs related to ensuring the locality hardware/software meets VITA security requirements; 3. the estimate assumes that the standard email accounts provided by VITA will meet the statutory requirements and the security measures that the state board in consultation with local boards of election and general registrars will develop and update annually; and 4. variations in services needed will require SBE and VITA to update the amounts calculated for this FIS.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The following bills are similar: SB11, SB181, HB126, and HB759.