

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1296-S1

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

**2. Patron:** Cole

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Vacancies in elected offices; term of office; special elections

**5. Summary:** Provides that if the office filled at the November or May general election is vacant or is currently held by an officer who was elected at a special election to fill a vacancy in that office, then the term of office for the officer chosen at the November or May election shall begin when the officer has qualified and taken the oath of office. The term of office of any person chosen at a special election to fill a vacancy in any public office shall commence as soon as he shall qualify and give bond, if bond is required, and shall continue until such time as the candidate elected at the general election for that office has qualified and has taken the oath of office. Any person elected to fill a vacancy in a public office shall qualify and give bond, if bond is required, no later than thirty days following the date on which the special election was held. The legislation amends § 24.2-207, Code of Virginia, to authorize the Governor to issue a writ of election to fill the vacancy when any vacancy occurs in the United States Senate and requires that no election to fill a vacancy shall be ordered or held if the general or special election at which it is to be called is scheduled within 75 days of the end of the term of the office to be filled for the United States Senate or House of Representatives. The legislation also removes the requirement from § 24.2-226, Code of Virginia, that the person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office for the remaining portion of the regular term of the office for which the vacancy is being filled. No special election to fill a vacancy in an office shall be held on the same day as the general election at which that office is regularly scheduled to be filled.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. No Fiscal Impact**

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Elections, House Bill 1296 would not have a state fiscal impact. This bill is not expected to generate any cost savings because the special election would run concurrent with the general election. The resulting change would be one less item on the ballot. This bill is also not expected to eliminate all special elections but only the special elections that are scheduled on the same day as a general election that are filling the same office.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** The bill, as amended, would not result in a state fiscal impact. The legislation, as introduced, also did not result in a state fiscal impact.

c: Secretary of Administration