

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1574-H1

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

2. Patron: Pogge

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Voter registration; proof of citizenship.

5. Summary: The substitute for House Bill 1574 amends the statement featured prominently in boldface capital letters on the voter application to add that intentionally making a false statement concerning citizenship shall be punishable under Virginia law as a felony. Violators may be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison or up to 12 months in jail and/or fine up to \$2,500.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 83.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – see Item 8.

Expenditure Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Positions</i> | <i>Fund</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2015 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |
| 2016 | \$8,814 | 0.00 | GF |
| 2017 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |
| 2018 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |
| 2019 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |
| 2020 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |
| 2021 | \$0 | 0.00 | - |

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections, the substitute for House Bill 1574 would require changes to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) so that the disclaimers provided through the statewide voter registration database and online application are amended. The changes to VERIS are estimated to cost \$2,500. Other costs incurred by the agency include \$2,200 for forms revisions and translation and \$4,114 for printing and distribution of new forms. Funding for these changes are not currently built into the Department's approved contracts and projects; therefore, this legislation would require a budget amendment in the amount of \$8,814 in fiscal year 2016 only.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: Yes. The substitute for House Bill 1574 adds that intentionally making a false statement concerning citizenship on the voter application form is

a Class 6 felony. Currently, § 24.2-418, Code of Virginia, makes the application for registration subject to felony penalties pursuant to § 24.2-1016, Code of Virginia. Section 24.2-1016, Code of Virginia, states that any willfully false material statement or entry made by any person in any statement, form, or report required by this title shall constitute the crime of election fraud and be punishable as a Class 5 felony. The recommendation would be to delete “6” on line 193 and insert “5” in order to reflect that committing election fraud is punishable as a Class 5 felony.

11. Other Comments: None.

c: Secretary of Administration